

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Portrait of the artist
The eccentric but successful Willem De Kooning
In your interests
Borrowers' and investors' guide to best buys from the building societies
Pet subject
Author and zoologist Gerald Durrell talks about unusual house pets in Russia
Stolen stories
Novelist Salman Rushdie demands action against the book pirates
Welsh challenge
Preview of the Wallabies' match against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mrs Anne Sankey of Shipton-on-Stour, Warwickshire, and Mr Tristram Jenkins of Sherborne, Dorset, each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, information service, back page

Test tube attempt by surrogate

The first attempt to use the test-tube technique to allow a woman to have a baby for her childless sister has been made at Hammersmith Hospital, London. One embryo was transferred last month, but a pregnancy did not result. Another attempt is to be made, however.

My sister's baby, page 11

Husain's plea

King Husain of Jordan called on Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestinians, meeting in Amman, to join him in a joint approach to peace in the Middle East. Earlier report, page 6

What about talks to protect M.P.s from themselves?



Lonrho men go

Lord Duncan-Sandys and Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the two Lonrho representatives on the board of House of Fraser, the department stores group, have agreed to resign from the board. Page 17

Rebels to die

Two unrepentant Zapu guerrillas were sentenced to death in Harare for their part in the kidnap of six tourists, including two Britons. Page 8

Stores takeover

Dee Corporation, the food wholesaling and retailing concern, is buying the 380-shop International Stores chain from BAT Industries for £180m. Page 17

McEnroe out

A wrist injury has forced John McEnroe to withdraw from the Australian Open and may keep him out of the Davis Cup final. Page 22

Gatting in flow

Mike Gatting hit six sixes and scored 136 not out in England's total of 458 for three declared against India's West Zone who replied with 66 for one. Page 21

Leader page, 13
Letters: On student charges, from Mr C. A. Giles, and others; Irish neutrality, from Mr J. MacInerney; customs seizures, from Mr J. Beyer

Leading articles: Warnock debate: GCHQ features, pages 10-12
Judges tempted by politics; Second-term worries for President Reagan; the high cost of wangs; Lord Snowden on Irving Penn; having a baby for sister

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Howe taxes visitors and gives notice of Unesco pull-out

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Cuts in Britain's diplomatic representation overseas, with the closure of 10 consular missions and economies of about £1m in both the BBC's external services and the British Council were among the measures announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to the Commons last night to enable him to keep the Foreign Office budget next year at the planned total of £1,870m.

In addition Britain's military assistance programme for the training of other countries' armed forces is being cut by about £500,000. Commonwealth citizens visiting Britain are to be faced for the first time an entry charge of £10; and visas for foreigners coming to Britain will go up from £6 to £10, bringing in a total of £4m a year.

Spending on information services is to be cut by about £1m. Sir Geoffrey also confirmed, after weeks of speculation, that he was giving notice of Britain's withdrawal at the end of the next year from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), a decision immediately attacked by Mr Edward Heath, the former prime minister, as lamentable and illogical.

The move will be reconsidered at the end of 1985; if withdrawal is confirmed it would save about £5m in 1986-87.

Sir Geoffrey's eagerly-awaited statement on the distribution of the Foreign Office budget left MPs puzzled last night over the total value of the cuts he had

had to make. He told MPs that the specific figures would be in the expenditure White Paper early next year, and Foreign Officials were no more forthcoming.

The exercise enabled him to say that the provision for overseas aid remained at the previously published total of £1,130m, an increase of about 3 per cent on this year, but MPs were quickly pointing out that this would still amount to a real terms cut given the fall in the value of sterling and higher inflation in many recipient countries.

Sir Geoffrey, opening the debate on a Liberal Party motion opposing cuts in the real value of the aid programme, said that it would be unrealistic to consider aid in isolation from the Government's other activities.

The wider context was the continuing need to retain tight control of overall public spending. "The only consequence of a failure to maintain that central economic policy would in the end be to undermine the country's capacity to sustain finance and aid its interests

abroad, to undermine its capacity to make its contribution to the needs of the third world," he said.

Explaining the decision on Unesco, which was greeted with protests from all parts of the House, Sir Geoffrey said that Britain was not satisfied that the developing world was getting value from the organization.

Acknowledging that some progress had been made, he said that the Government could not be confident that adequate reforms would be achieved by the end of next year, and must safeguard its position by giving notice.

He said that both the British Council and the BBC should absorb part of their own rising costs as part of the overall need to keep down government expenditure.

The cuts in the British Council's budget could lead to it pulling out of several smaller countries and will "inevitably" mean a curtailment of operations world-wide. Council missions in Central America and the Gulf are thought to be most at risk.

The BBC was unable to predict the result of the cuts last night, but Corporation sources felt they were likely to be severe. A 1.5m cut in support in 1981 led to the loss of the language services in Spanish, Italian, and Maltese, and cuts in other areas.

In a statement, the BBC said that its board of governors would wish to study the implications of the Foreign Secretary's remarks in detail before predicting their outcome.

Where the axe falls

BBC external services 1.2
British Council 1.2
Training aid 0.5
Information services 1

New revenue

Vases up to £5 (£10)
Commonwealth charge (£10) 1.5
Withdrawal from Unesco (1986-87) 5

Police acting legally on flying pickets

The police were given the go-ahead by the High Court yesterday to continue stopping flying pickets on their way to demonstrate at coal fields outside their area.

Mr Justice Skinner sitting with Mr Justice Otton in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court dismissed appeals by four striking miners who were arrested when they refused to turn back at police road blocks.

The four Yorkshire miners had claimed that the police were acting outside their powers under the Criminal Law Act, 1977 by preventing freedom of movement.

The four men Mr Reginald Moss, Mr Albert Bowns, Mr

The number of miners returning to work yesterday was 856, bringing the four day total to 4,982. The coal board had expected at least 7,000 men to return to work this week. There are now 63,000 NUM members working and 123,000 on strike. Page 2

Ernest Warner and Mr Derek Smith, were all from Kiveton Park Colliery, near Sheffield.

The men were travelling in a convoy of 25 cars carrying between 60 and 80 men on Good Friday this year to picket Nottinghamshire coal fields, when they were stopped by the police as they left the M1 motorway at Annesley.

Some 40 miners who insisted on continuing were arrested, including the four who were convicted by Mansfield magistrates in June of wilfully obstructing police officers.

He added: "The possibility of a breach must be taken to justify any preventive action. The imminence or immediacy of the threat to the peace determines what action is reasonable. If the police feared that a convoy of cars travelling towards a working coal field bearing banners and broadcasting, by sight or sound, hostility or threats towards working miners, might cause a violent episode, they would be justified in halting the convoy to inquire into its destination and purpose."

But the judge said: "The situation has to be assessed by the senior police officers present. Provided they honestly and reasonably form the opinion that there is a real risk of a breach of the peace in the sense that it is in close proximity both in place and time, then the conditions exist for reasonable preventive action including, if necessary, the measures taken in this case."

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Labour's use and abuse of Parliament

By Julian Hayward, Political Editor

The Labour Party returned yesterday to the role for which it was formed - using rather than obstructing Parliament. It used verbal rather than physical means to express its anger at the Government's denial of benefit to strikers.

There was evidence of a shared wish to prevent fresh signs of the incipient mob rule of the previous night, when some 30 Labour members forced the Speaker to abandon the sitting.

Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Dennis Skinner and others had late on Wednesday night used the methods of the street to occupy the centre of the chamber. Glaring and shouting at ministers, they refused the repeated requests of the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, that they should allow Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, to continue the statement they own front bench had demanded.

It was the ugliest scene for some years, unbecoming for ministers and dismaying for the Opposition front bench, whose impotence and isolation from an increasingly assertive section of their own party was painfully displayed.

Yesterday Mr Roy Hattersley, deputizing for Mr Neil Kinnock who was in Moscow, Continued on back page, col 3

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CHECKING IN: Mr Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, recovering at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, yesterday, after his car accident on Wednesday. Page 3

Leading banks cut base rates to 9 1/2 %

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Three of the big four high street banks cut their base rate from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent yesterday. Rates offered to depositors were reduced by half a percentage point.

The reduction will not have any immediate impact on mortgage rates. All the big building societies have announced mortgage rate cuts averaging one percentage point over the past fortnight. However, it should pave the way for still cheaper home loans in the new year.

The banks are also to announce an early cut in the interest rates charged on Access and Barclaycards. Access now charges 2 per cent a month, and Barclaycard 1.75 per cent.

The base rate move, led by National Westminster, followed a reduction, late on Wednesday evening, of the discount rate in the United States from 9 to 8 1/2 per cent. Lloyds and Midland followed, leaving Barclays, which reduced its base rate from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent on Monday, out of line.

The announcement of lower base rates coincided with the publication of the trade figures for October, which showed a record visible trade deficit, of £851 million.

However, after taking into account the surplus on the invisible items of trade (services, interest and profits), of £250 million, and the £328 million rebate received from the EEC last month, the current account deficit was just £73 million.

With additional coal imports added around £350 million to the import bill. Also, there was evidence that importers brought forward shipments to beat new VAT regulations at the ports.

Exports also reached a new high in October, up £447 million on September. The bulk of the increase, £371 million, was in exports of manufactured goods and officials say this could show that exporters are now benefiting from the pound's low level.

The sterling index was unchanged at 5.1 and the pound gained 10 points against the dollar to \$1.2275. Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Baker lists savings after GLC abolition

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Scrapping the Greater London Council and six other large authorities will cost 7,000 jobs in 1986 and save £100m a year afterwards, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, said yesterday.

He spoke after publication of the Local Government Bill, which allows ministers to scrap the seven councils on the same day and hand over their tasks to other bodies.

The chorus of Opposition protest against the plan was joined by Mr Alan Greenberg, leader of the minority Conservative group on the Greater London Council. He said he was sad that the Government had not yet recognized the need for a new elected council for London instead of the "mish-mash" in the Bill.

Publication of the 180-page Bill at £9 a copy enables ratepayers in the largest cities in England to find out in detail how their museums, buses, country parks, dustbins and fire engines are to be administered. One thing they will not learn is the size of the rate reduction that elimination of seven large councils will bring.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC, said: "Even if the Government's figure is right, it brings the average London ratepayer the ludicrous saving of 14p a week," he said.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Labour environment spokesman, said that the cost of abolishing all seven councils could exceed £300m in the first year. "This Bill constitutes a bungled and botched set of proposals concocted when Mrs Thatcher rattled on her personal pledge to abolish rates," he added.

But his coup of the day is at a lunchtime press conference, facing the massed cameras of Australia's profusion of television stations, calling the reporters by their first names and loaded and ready to fire before switching himself on to an immaculately delivered but basically tedious statement.

Reporters ask him earnest and convoluted questions about disarmament, the economy, the plight of the Queensland sugar cane farmers, all of which he answers with smooth ease and impressive factual detail.

Then on to a war veteran's hospital, where hideously im-

bless men strain from their beds to greet him. There is not much to be said. He grips their withered hands and looks them straight in the eyes, and says: "Good on yer, mate."

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Russians agree to talk about arms

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The long-awaited Soviet-American breakthrough finally took place yesterday with the announcement that Mr George Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko would meet in Geneva in January, not only to explore détente but to draw up the agenda for new arms negotiations on a broad range of contentious issues.

But the Soviet Union insisted last night that the agreement to open new Soviet-American arms talks, announced simultaneously on Moscow and Washington, did not amount to a "renewal of Soviet-American

negotiations". A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters this was "completely untrue".

Diplomats said, however, that the Russians had none the less agreed to talk to the United States about a range of arms control issues even though Washington had not fulfilled the conditions previously laid down by the Kremlin. "The rest is semantics," one diplomat said. "The superpowers are talking again."

The Soviet Union walked out of the Geneva arms talks on medium-range missiles and strategic missiles almost exactly a year ago, after NATO had deployed the first phase of cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe to counter Russia's deployment of SS20s.

Until very recently Soviet officials were insisting both publicly and privately that NATO must withdraw its medium-range missiles before arms talks could resume. "By wiping the slate clean and starting afresh they can argue that they have not given up their preconditions but have put the issue on one side," one Western observer commented.

Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced that America and Russia had agreed "to enter into new negotiations with the aim of achieving mutually acceptable agreements via the whole range of questions concerning nuclear and space weapons".

Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz would meet in Geneva on January 7-8 to work out "A joint understanding of the subject and aims of such negotiations". Mr Lomeiko said.

Asked if Russia had given up its demand for the withdrawal of cruise and Pershing, Mr Lomeiko said the new talks were not a continuation of the Geneva medium-range negotiations. The Soviet position remained that those talks could only be resumed if cruise and Pershing were withdrawn.

"The fact remains that Moscow has gone from intense negotiations" to a "renewal of Soviet-American negotiations".

Lord Fraser of Tullybelton said that there had been no question of national security, the staff unions would have had a legitimate expectation that they would be consulted before the Government made its decision in December last year.

But the evidence presented by the Government "does in my opinion undoubtedly constitute evidence that the minister [Prime Minister] did indeed consider that prior consultation would have involved a risk of precipitating disruption at GCHQ".

Lord Scarman said that he had no doubt that the Prime Minister had made his decision in December last year.

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Splash out on an auld acquaintance.

STILL BLENDED BY A MACKINLAY, FIVE GENERATIONS LATER.

Return to work falling short of coal board's 7,000 target

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board looks certain to miss its target figure for the return to work this week after 856 men went back yesterday, bringing the four-day total to 4,982.

Mr Michael Eaton, the board's chief spokesman, last Friday predicted that the surge back would rise to at least 7,000 after a week in which 5,000 men abandoned their involvement in the conflict over pit closures.

The best available official estimate last night indicates that there are 63,000 members of the National Union of Mineworkers at work, and 123,000 on strike - approximately a 2-1 split in favour of staying out. The union is still claiming that 74 per cent of its coal-mining members are on strike.

The board's extended target of more than half the miners back at work by Christmas also looks to be over-optimistic, and the board is giving fresh thought to new measures to persuade pitmen to return. The Christmas bonus initiative expires today, and a substantial fall in the number of strikers crossing

Threatened man told to stay away

By Craig Seton

Inflation a factor in benefit cut

By Nicholas Timmins

Social Services Correspondent

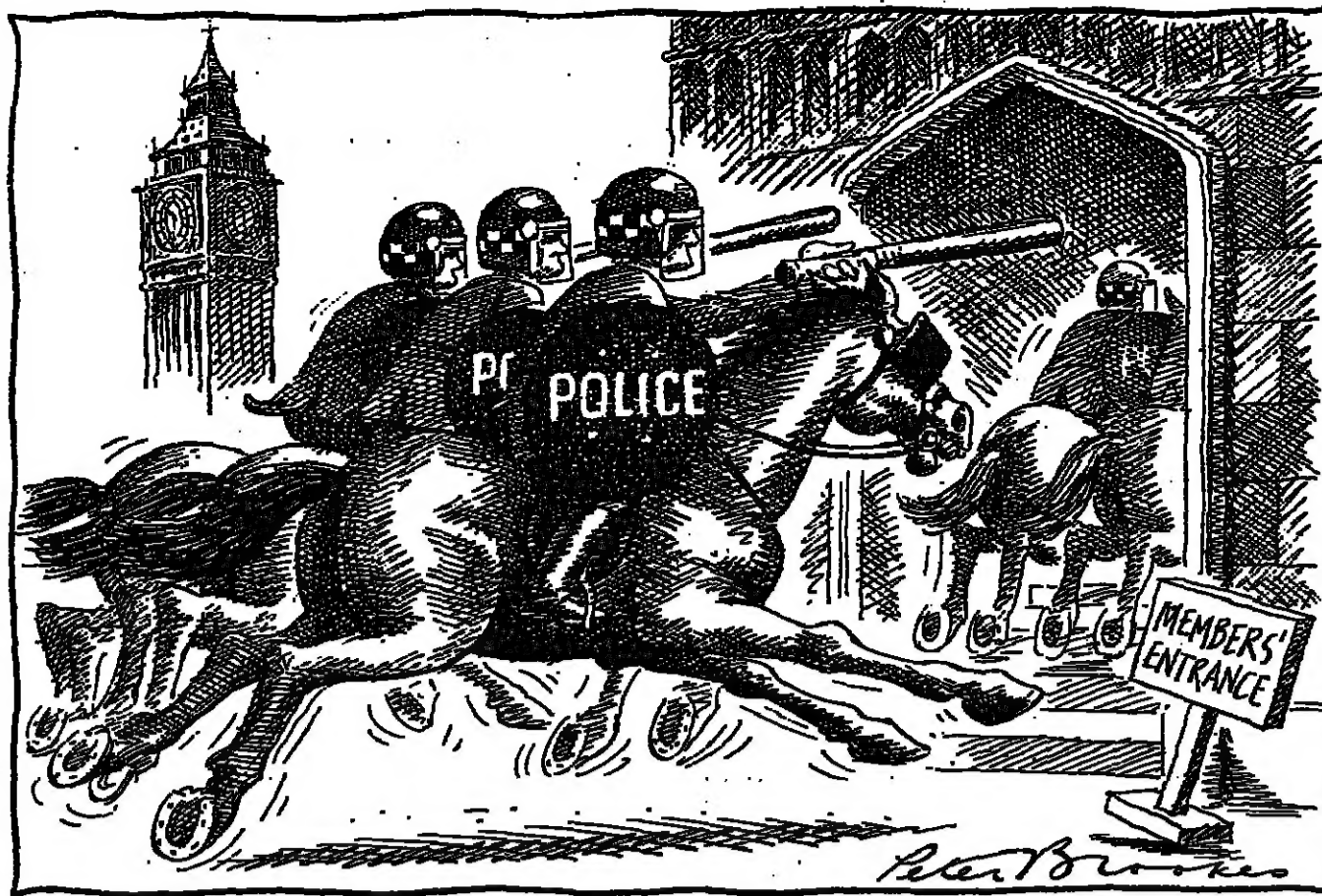
A fractionally smaller rise in inflation would have meant the extra sum to be deducted from miners' benefits when the rates rise on Monday would have been only 50p, not £1.

Under the formula used to calculate the uprating, the rise in prices is used and the result rounded to the nearest 50p. The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that under this year's calculation, the sum came to £15.76 - meaning the deduction had to be raised from £15 to £16. "To have done otherwise would have meant changing the law", a spokesman said.

The deduction from the benefits paid to dependents was first introduced in 1980 when it stood at £12. It has been uprated annually since, although never before in the sensitive circumstances of a dispute such as the miners' strike. According to DRSS figures, about 40,000 miners are receiving supplementary benefit during the dispute, with about £22m paid out so far.

The striker himself receives nothing. But wives and children can qualify if they have no other income providing the family does not have more than £3,000 capital.

Parliament, page 4



Dublin's hopes in disarray

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Prime Minister of the Irish Republic has spent the two years since coming into office building a relationship with his British counterpart in the hope that with mutual trust they could together move to break the political deadlock in Northern Ireland.

Despite the fact that Dr Garret FitzGerald and Mrs Margaret Thatcher apparently have a warm relationship, that ambitious aim looks less likely after the recriminations in the wake of the Anglo-Irish summit.

Forty-eight hours after the two prime ministers stood together at Chequers after what Mrs Thatcher described as the "fullest, frankest and most realistic" discussions with Dr FitzGerald, a big rift has developed in relations between the two countries. It is clear that the FitzGerald team reckoned without the tone and manner of Mrs Thatcher.

The fifth Anglo-Irish summit was bound to be difficult because it was the first since the publication of the report of the New Ireland Forum, with all political parties in the island anxiously awaiting its outcome.

After that report, with its analysis of the realities of the problem and its options of a unitary state, a confederal system, or joint authority as a way forward in Northern Ireland, the republic's Government launched a diplomatic effort to persuade Britain to act.

The offensive put pressure on Britain by warning of the threat from the political rise of the Provisional Sinn Féin, and the growing alienation of nationalists in the North.

The pressure on Britain relaxed, however, after Mr John Hume's convincing victory over Provisional Sinn Féin in the European elections, although expectations in the republic continued to be raised dramati-

cally by speeches from Dublin ministers.

Anxious to help the relationship, Dr FitzGerald suggested in the aftermath of the Brighton bomb that he was willing to travel to Britain for the summit, even though the Prime Minister had apparently agreed to go to Dublin.

The Chequers talks were described as rough, with Mrs Thatcher questioning the Irish delegation on every assertion they made; the diplomatic language of the communiqué attempted to conceal big differences and the fact that Dr FitzGerald had got almost nothing.

He and his officials put a brave face on their disappoint-

ment, but what infuriated them and even concerned officials in London was the manner and tone of Mrs Thatcher's dismissal of the Forum options.

Her brusque and, according to Irish commentators, "impatient" behaviour left Dr FitzGerald in a vulnerable position at home.

Their anger was heightened by Mr Douglas Hurd's reaffirmation that there could be no executive role for the public in Northern Ireland and his disclosure that in reality Dublin was being offered little more than the role of a constitutional monarch to warn and advise in, perhaps, a joint security council.

Geoffrey Smith, page 5

Boycott fails to stop paper

By Barrie Clement

Labour Reporter

Members of the National Union of Journalists at the Portsmouth evening newspaper The News yesterday boycotted the introduction of a crucial second step in the company's new technology programme and were warned that their decision could lead to a "major confrontation".

With the help of the management, senior editorial staff, and non-NUJ employees the paper was printed normally.

The NUJ members, who make up 77 per cent out of 120 journalists, were protesting over the transfer of three National Graphical Association members to newspaper duties. The journalists want them to switch to the NUJ.

Sub-editors with union cards were asked yesterday to use visual display terminals, but refused. The union has warned management that if its members are victimized there could be a complete strike involving reporters as well.

Mr Patrick Tierney, deputy father of the chapel (assistant shop steward for the office branch) said that no one had been disciplined so far for refusing to go "on-screen", but that it was probably a matter of time before someone was. The chapel was prepared to work under the status quo ante as laid down in the disputes procedure.

Mr Ben Stoneham, the company's industrial relations executive, said the paper had no intention of going back on its decision to implement "phase two" of its scheme to introduce new working practices.

Speaking at a CBI conference on new technology in London, he said that some employees occasionally had to be reminded that it was possible to continue publication without their help.

Mr Charles Hargrave, leader of the Flannan Fall, accused Dr FitzGerald of subjecting capitulation to a new British intrusiveness.

Mr Douglas Hurd Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (right): "It is not acceptable to us that the executive authority of the Irish Republic should be exercised in the province."

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Telecom sale spurs new thinking on compensation

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

With hundreds of thousands of British citizens about to invest their savings in British Telecom shares, the Government has significantly changed its attitude to the protection of property rights, and in particular to the payment of compensation for nationalized assets.

In argument before the European Court of Human Rights, in a case concerned with compensation paid to nationalized aircraft and shipbuilding businesses, the Government's representatives have abandoned their previous position that the European Convention on Human Rights does not guarantee a right to compensation where a state's own nationals are disposed of by Act of Parliament.

Ministers and their advisers have also recoiled from a potentially embarrassing argument, advanced in their support by the Human Rights Commission, which would justify a future Labour government in taking back British Telecom shares at a fraction of market value.

The full extent of the change is shown in written pleadings submitted to the court in Strasbourg and published yesterday.

With the sale of British Telecom imminent, and further privatization plans maturing, the changes are seen by Conservative MPs as coming none too soon.

Potential investors are warned in the BT prospectus, published this week, that any Labour government would be pledged to renationalize by paying no more than the issue price of £1.30 a share, no matter how far the share price might rise.

Labour's front bench spokesmen have this week repeatedly

given "fair warning" that they mean what they say.

If a Labour government is returned the only protection for investors in BT would be the Human Rights Convention, a protection which the Government and its legal advisers have for the last two years been trying to remove.

Conservative backbenchers were satisfied yesterday that ministers had at last abandoned a legal line of defence which many in the party believed to be politically shortsighted.

Other aspects of the Government's pleadings also suggest a new appreciation of the political dangers of the Strasbourg case, known as Lithgow and Others Against the United Kingdom, in which the Government is resisting claims amounting to several hundred million pounds from seven applicants who say they were inadequately compensated under the terms of the Labour Government's Nationalization Act, 1977.

The applicants' main grievance is their assets, taken into public ownership in 1977, were valued as at 1973-74. (One applicant, Vosper, claims that because profitability increased in the interim, it should have been paid for its subsidiary, Vosper Thornycroft, seven times the £5.3m it received).

The Commission dismissed that complaint mainly on the grounds that the 1977 Act retroactively brought the applicants' property to some extent into the public domain as from February, 1974, the end of the reference period which the Act stipulated for valuation, and "froze" property rights at the earlier value.

The Government maintains, however, that the level of compensation paid by Labour and the method of valuation, were reasonable.

Constitution campaign

A new all-party and non-party group, the Constitutional Reform Centre, has been formed to campaign for constitutional change and in particular for the incorporation into British law of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The president of the new body, which was announced yesterday, is Lord Scarman.

The Lord of Appeal who has long favoured the change.

The vice-presidents and members of the advisory board include former Conservative and Labour ministers, Sir Ian Gilmour, MP, Lord Barnett, Mr Roy Jenkins, the former leader of the Social Democrats, and Sir Douglas Wass, former Permanent Secretary to the Treasury.

Union heads for defeat on ITV strike call

The leadership of the film and television union ACTT is heading for a substantial defeat in its call for a national ITV strike from December 1.

With voting almost complete in union meetings at the commercial television companies, the strike call now seems certain to be lost by a ratio of at least seven votes to one.

The latest results last night indicated that 2,479 members had rejected the strike call, and 345 had voted to support it.

Less than 1,000 votes remain to be cast.

The rejection of the strike call is expected to lead to the acceptance by ACTT of an 8 per cent rise on basic rates which the television companies said in September was a final offer.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Canada \$25, Hong Kong \$25, India \$25, Japan \$25, New Zealand \$25, Singapore \$25, South Africa \$25, Sweden \$25, Switzerland \$25, Taiwan \$25, Thailand \$25, USA \$25, West Germany \$25, Yugoslavia \$25.

Monopoly fears over bus changes

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Government proposals to deregulate the bus industry are more likely to lead to monopoly than competition, according to the Institute of Transport Studies at Leeds University.

Loss of routes and through-services and tickets, greater town centre congestion, and even reduced safety, despite the Government's apparent concern to protect it, are other likely effects of the measures due to come into effect next year, the Institute says.

The Government's assumption that a free-for-all will not lead to a loss of local bus services is described as "complacent and unfounded". Aggressive competition could force operators towards a smaller core network and the Government is simply "making an act of faith" that the benefits of cost-efficiency savings will dominate undesirable effects.

The Institute also says that safety could suffer if many small firms are sucked in by deregulation. Government proposals to expand inspection

are welcome but their adequacy cannot be judged.

Experience shows that when a small operator competes with a large incumbent he is likely to be driven out by the latter's position and greater financial strength. So deregulation will probably lead to monopoly or to agreements between the main operators to carve up the market.

Deregulating the Bus Industry. Gwilliam, Nash and Mackie (Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT).

The cuts - at Swan Hunter's composite yard on the Tyne and Vosper Thornycroft's warship yard at Southampton - also underline the urgent desire by the BS management to accelerate moves towards independence from state aid. On the Government's own admission, state aid for the corporation this year will be more than £18,000 for each of the 12,000 workers in the merchant yards.

Cuts highlight shipyards' aims of ending state aid

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The latest job cuts, totalling 2,890, in state-owned British Shipbuilders will mean that the country's shipbuilding manpower has been reduced by 30 per cent in the last 18 months and more than halved since the industry was nationalized in 1977.

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The corporation also receives assistance under the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund, designed to bridge the gap between British and Far Eastern prices (but only applicable to non-EEC orders). Since 1977 that has totalled about £400m.

Excluding the fund, BS has received more than £1,000m of state aid since the Conservatives came to power in 1979. The latest redundancies mean BS will employ just over 43,000, compared with 87,000 in 1977.

Under its new Canadian chairman, Mr Graham Day, the corporation is in the throes of selling to the private sector its fringe activities, such as ship repair, and all its warship yards.

The latter, which made profits last year of £44m compared with merchant shipbuilding losses of £49m, are the most saleable parts of BS. The Government is expecting substantial progress in their privatization by the end of next March.

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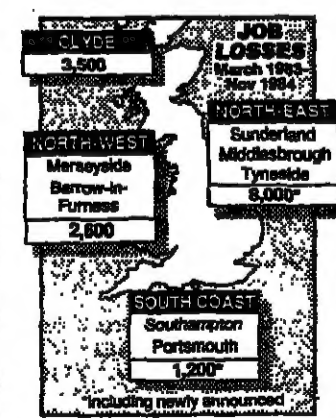
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Williams & Glyn's

Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 23rd November 1984 its Base Rate for advances

is reduced from 10% to 9 1/2% per annum.

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is reduced from 6 3/4% to 6 1/4% per annum.



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Record £396,000 for Stradivarius

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

It was a big deal day for Peter Biddulph, the young London violin dealer, yesterday

MPs demand guards for ministers after Jenkin crash brings kidnap fears

By Michael Horsnell

The risk of a Cabinet minister being kidnapped is to be raised with the Home Secretary by Wednesday night following a car crash on Wednesday night involving Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Jenkin, aged 58, who fractured a wrist and received a minor back injury, was left shocked, dazed and without immediate police protection after the accident in east London.

MPs believe the vulnerability of Mr Jenkin in the crash underlined the kidnap risk facing senior politicians who are not afforded Special Branch protection.

Calling on Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to extend protection to Cabinet ministers, Mr Peter Bruinvels, Conservative MP for Leicester East, said MPs were shocked.

Mr Bruinvels told *The Times*: "A minister in a tricky situation such as Mr Jenkin is over the abolition of the Greater London Council should have police protection at all times. I should have thought that particularly

after the Brighton outrage this would have been automatic for all Cabinet ministers. I am very surprised there was none at the time of the accident."

About 100 Special Branch officers are engaged in protecting only about 30 top politicians, past and present, including the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland ministers and the Leader of the Opposition.

About half as many officers again would be needed if protection were extended to the entire Cabinet.

Mr Jenkin's chauffeur-driven ministerial Rover was in collision with another car being driven in the opposite direction in Wapping, east London.

Mr Norman Miscampbell, Conservative MP for Blackpool North, who was travelling with Mr Jenkin, was also admitted to the London Hospital.

Both men were described as "fine" last night but an orthopaedic consultant at the

hospital decided Mr Jenkin should be detained for observation until tomorrow.

Mr Andrew Dillon, the hospital's deputy administrator, said: "We do not think he is any more seriously injured than we originally thought but his condition requires further hospital attention. He is in good spirits but in some pain."

Mr James Wignore, the driver of the other car, suffered head, chest and leg injuries, and his condition was described as comfortable.

Mr Jenkin had been due yesterday to handle arrangements for the publication of the Local Government Bill abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan county councils, and to give a press conference. His place was taken by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government.

The Department of the Environment said Mr Jenkin was not expected to be back at his desk next week but that he should be well enough to open the debate on the second reading of the Bill probably in the first week of December.

Tory concern over students' fees

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Pressure on the Government over its plans for student grants increased yesterday with the news that members of the Conservative backbench committee on education have asked Mr Peter Brooke, junior education minister, to talk to them.

Mr Brooke, who is in charge of higher education, is not expected to have an easy ride at the meeting on December 5 which will be chaired by Mr David Maud, Conservative MP for Bedfordshire South West, chairman of the backbenchers' committee.

Many Tory MPs are concerned about the Government's decision to make the better-off pay more towards the living costs and education of their offspring at university. Those on a residual income of more than £20,500 will have to pay £725 more a year towards the education of their offspring at university.

That will affect more than 50,000 families, many of whom are natural Conservative voters.

University applications are down by 4,000

Four thousand fewer people have applied so far for university places next year than this, the Universities Central Council on Admissions says.

It is likely that some prospective students have been put off applying because competition is now fierce and entrance standards are tougher.

The drop is contrary to trends set in recent years. The final date for applications is December 15, but candidates have been applying much earlier because of the competition for places.

Fewer state school pupils applied for and obtained Cambridge University places this year, according to university figures.

This fall, from 47 per cent last year to 42 per cent this,

reverses the trend of the past few years. The proportion of women accepted, however, rose from 33 per cent last year to 36 per cent this year.

Students at York University said yesterday that they would continue their sit-in until they had defeated government plans to scrap minimum grants. About 300 students occupied the administration building after a students' union meeting.

About eighty have been sleeping on the building's floors.

More than 2,000 students rampaged through Glasgow yesterday and at one stage besieged the city chambers in George Square. Twelve were arrested accused of disorderly behaviour and mounted police reinforcements were called out to control the crowds.

20% rise in pilgrims expected

By Derek Harris

Thomas Cook's specialist subsidiary, Inter-Church Travel, is expecting an upturn in pilgrimages next year.

An increase of up to a fifth in the number of travellers Inter-Church expects to carry next year was predicted yesterday by Mr Douglas Cady, the company's general manager.

That is likely largely because the Holy Land, which accounts for more than half of pilgrimage traffic, has seen a return to greater political stability. A wider spectrum of people is also being attracted by Inter-Church.

Mr Cady said: "Predominantly older, single people have been going on pilgrimages, but there is a growing trend for married couples to go."

Inter-Church, established in 1954 to promote Christian unity through travel, possibly accounts for up to a fifth of those making pilgrimages, Mr Cady estimates. It expects to carry about 10,000 people this year, but not all will have been pilgrims. Inter-Church also offers cultural tours and retreats.

All Inter-Church tours have leaders, usually clergy, to add a dimension of specialised knowledge, especially on the pilgrimages.

Among the tours are an annual St Francis one including Rome and Assisi, tours of the ancient pilgrim route across northern Spain to the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela, and a tour tracing the steps of St Paul on his second and third missionary journeys from Galatia to Greece.

Prices next summer will rise by about 5 per cent.

Some of the Inter-Church tour prices are down, especially those of those based on Italy, Crete, Turkey, and Greece. Holy Land tours start at £499 for 10 days, but on eight-day tours is being introduced next summer priced at £429.

Disabled to use Princess's former home

The Princess of Wales' former home, Park House on the Queen's Sandringham estate in Norfolk, is to be used as a holiday home for severely handicapped people.

The Victorian mansion, which the King Edward VII had built for staff accommodation, was the Princess's birthplace and home for 15 years before her father, Lord Spencer, inherited his title and moved to Althorp, Northamptonshire.

Now the Leonard Cheshire Foundation has launched a £1m appeal to convert the mansion

Judge frees wife who killed cruel husband

Mrs Pauline Wyatt, aged 29, a mother of five who shot her sadistic husband, was freed yesterday by a judge, who told her: "I think you have suffered enough."

Her husband threw knives at her, put a loaded shotgun into her mouth and pointed it at her head, threatening to light it.

He handcuffed her in the bath, threatened to touch the water with electric wires and regularly branded her body with hot wires twisted into his initials.

He strangled her two pet parrots and choked the family puppy before shooting it.

Mrs Wyatt said as she left

Manchester Crown Court that she was relieved she could spend Christmas with her children, aged 11 years to 16 months.

Mrs Wyatt was put on probation for three years after she was convicted of the manslaughter of her husband, Charles, at the then family home in Flora Drive, Salford, Manchester.

Mrs Wyatt killed him with a shotgun as he slept hours after he threatened to "skin" two of their children, stab two others and strangle their baby.

The jury took 10 minutes to find Mrs Wyatt, 39, of Regent Drive, Salford, not guilty of murder.

Philips' cell radio venture

Philips, Europe's largest electronics group, is to link with Rascal Vodafone, one of two systems licensed to bring car and portable telephones using cellular radio technology on to the market from the beginning

of the new year, it was announced yesterday.

The other system, Cellnet, a joint venture between British Telecom and Securicor, has started gearing up its marketing for the London area.

Shops union plea for restrictions to stay

Leaders of the shop workers' union yesterday launched their campaign against the abolition of shop-hour restrictions recommended by the Auld committee.

Mr Sid Tierney, president to the union, which represents one-eighth of Britain's 2,200,000 shop workers, said: "These proposals would drag our workers back one hundred years. We will fight to have the Shops Act properly enforced."

"Unions have their funds sequestered for allegedly showing contempt of the law, yet every Sunday there is blatant contempt by traders

which is met with nothing more than paltry fines which deter no one."

Mr Tierney said that if the Government carried out its plans to abolish wage councils, shop workers would be left with no protection in law against being required to work late at night or on Sundays, and premium payments for working unsocial hours would disappear.

The Federation of Multiple DIY Retailers, however, was able to cite evidence that most MPs now want Sunday trading laws to be relaxed.

A survey of MPs commissioned by the Federation for Marketing & Opinion Research found that 75 per cent said they were in favour of a change.

The Government will announce its response to calls for legalised late-night shopping and Sunday trading early next year, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, told the Commons yesterday.

He rejected a Conservative MP's call for prosecutions under the Shops Act not be pressed in the meantime. Parliament, page 4

Cot death risk 'if babies are too warm'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Parents may be putting their babies at risk of cot death from overheating by wrapping them up too warmly or keeping them in oppressively hot rooms, a study in *The Lancet* suggests.

In research involving 34 cot deaths, Dr Anthony Stanton, consultant paediatrician at Scarborough Hospital, says that in all but two cases the babies were either unusually hot and sweating before death, died in unusually warm rooms, were overclothed or beneath layers of blankets, or had evidence of an infection which in many cases would not usually be expected to cause death.

A combination of the risks could turn a potential danger - being too hot, or having an infection - into a lethal one, he says.

Parents need to be educated away from the folk-lore that babies catch cold to the reality that many are at risk from overheating. No policy will stop all cot deaths, he says and in some cases, for example where there is a very low birth weight, keeping babies cool may not even be relevant. But overheating is a risk that is common and should often be avoidable.

In the study, babies had been put next to coal fires, or radiators. One 3 month old boy was in a warm room at night, swaddled in a large doubled blanket wrapped twice round him with two large woollen blankets folded into four on top.

Dr Stanton said parents needed to be sensible about how warm they kept their children. If they brought in a child well wrapped up against the cold after a trip outdoors, they needed to take off some of the clothing.

"Babies that are cold cry" he said, "but some babies that are too hot do not seem to."

Sinking coaster crew of seven lifted to safety

A British coaster, pictured above, sank in rough seas off Plymouth yesterday, shortly after her crew of seven were rescued.

The 640-tonne Fyhrir's cargo of granite chippings shifted in a force nine gale two miles south-west of Plymouth, on Wednesday night, and the ship developed a severe list.

Three crew members were lifted off by a helicopter from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, Engadine, and landed on the destroyer, HMS Brilliant.

The remaining four men were taken off by the Plymouth lifeboat.

Thirteen passengers and a driver escaped serious injury yesterday when this 50-seater coach, right, skidded and overturned on a flooded dual carriageway outside Ringwood, Hampshire, on the A338 from Bournemouth.

Gillick judgment delay

The Court of Appeal reserved judgment yesterday in the Gillick case.

Mrs Victoria Gillick, aged 37, who has 10 children, is seeking a declaration that Department of Health and Social Security

guidelines, which give doctors the right to give advice and contraceptives to under-age girls without their parents' consent, are unlawful.

She is appealing against the High Court's refusal

Tourist boom at Culloden

Culloden, scene of the last battle fought on British soil, had the biggest gain in visitors last season to the National Trust for Scotland's property, it was announced yesterday.

Sixteen thousand people visited the battle site near Inverness.

For the second successive season, the number of visitors to the Trust's properties was more than 1.5 million. Admissions totalled 1,570,889.

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Speaker will uphold reputation of House

COMMONS

The scenes in the Commons the previous night, when Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, was prevented from making a statement on supplementary benefit to the families of striking miners, were the roughest the house had ever seen, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared during question time.

Charges of callousness and vindictiveness should be turned not against the Government but against the National Union of Mineworkers which was reported to use its money for violence rather than for looking after its members, she told Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, standing in for Mr Kinnoch who is in Moscow.

The exchanges between the Prime Minister and Mr Hattersley led to noisy scenes in the House with the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) having to call for order, particularly when Labour members directed their wrath at Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP.

After question time the Speaker, in a short statement about the previous night's events which led to his adjourning the House because of grave disorder, said that for centuries the House had seen the strongest expressions of conflicting opinion and policy. Over the centuries it had jealously guarded its procedures of free debate.

If its proceedings (he went on) are brought to a halt by disorderly conduct, and this does include the refusal to hear the opinions of others, then this long tradition will be damaged and violated and the authority of Parliament is undermined.

As long as I am Speaker I shall continue to uphold its reputation and its supremacy and I hope that in this I will always have the full backing of the whole House of Commons.

There was immediately a shout by a Conservative MP across to the Labour benches "Why don't you apologise?" and the Speaker said: "On a day when feelings are running high remarks from a sedentary position do not help the situation."

There is to be a debate in the Commons on Monday on an Opposition motion about the issue which had come to the fore in a written reply the previous day indicating that the £15 being deducted from the supplementary benefit paid to miners' dependants on the assumption that the NUM is paying strike pay, is to rise £16 as the new benefit rates come in.

When question time exchanges began, Mr Fergus Mountgomery (Ayrincham and Sale, C) asked if Mrs Thatcher agreed if a union called its members out on strike, a strike which caused great inconvenience and cost to the community at large, the responsibility for looking after those strikers should fall on the union responsible? (Conservative cheers)

Mr Thatcher: Yes, I agree. That was what was proposed in our 1978 manifesto which was overwhelmingly endorsed and passed into law in the Act of 1980, in which deductions from benefits payable to strikers' families are made.

Mr Hattersley: Did the Prime Minister hear Mr Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services on the radio this morning admit that the specified sums in the order for 1984 will further reduce the real value, the purchasing power, of the social security payments made to families of striking miners?

What possible justification can there be for this gratuitously vindictive act? (Labour cheers) Does the Prime Minister still not realise that such callousness confirms our long held view that she is less concerned with the waste and suffering of the miners' dispute than with the hope of scoring a cheap political victory?

Mrs Thatcher: If, in accordance with the Act, the NUM meets its obligations to the strikers, they will get the full benefit of the social security up-rating because the NUM will meet the £16. Callousness and vindictiveness should be turned not against the NUM which is prepared to use the money for mob violence rather than for its members.

Mr Hattersley: The Prime Minister continues to pretend this is necessary under the Act, when the Act gives her power to change the components. If the Prime Minister is so conscious and certain of the righteousness of her cause, why did she try to sneak the order through at the last moment?

To coin a phrase that she will remember from question time a week ago - why does she not have the guts to come down and explain it herself? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: The point of the Act is that those who belong to trade unions are entitled to look to the trade unions for a part of their benefits while they are on strike. If the NUM carried out its obligations, striking miners' families would have £16 next week.

The formula is contained in section 6(2) of the Social Security Act 1980. The formula is automatic. It would have been fair to the miners. It would have demonstrated (loud Labour protests) there are some of us in this House who are going to... (Further protest)

The Speaker said: "I hope the NUM has every right to be heard. Dr Owen: I have every right, and so has this House which was flouted last night."

The Government would have been fairer to the families of miners and miners themselves and would have achieved greater sensitivity on this delicate issue if they had increased... (Further Labour protest)

Dr David Owen, gesturing towards Labour MPs sitting near him, said: "I will not be bullied by this lot."

There was further laughter and protest and Mr David Nellist (Coventry, South-east, Lab) rose, saying that he had a point of order. He did not pursue it.

The Speaker: Order. This kind of disorder in not fair to the House, nor to other MPs who have questions on the Order Paper.

He again called Dr Owen to continue his question.

Dr Owen: I shall stand here until hell freezes over. (loud interruptions) I put it to the Prime Minister that in answer to a reasoned debate, to have put regulations to increase the deduction from £15 to £15.50, would have been fair.

Mrs Thatcher: No. The formula in the Act was applied precisely. To

There are two clauses in the Act which allow her and the Government to vary the order if they choose to do so.

She does not choose to vary the order and therefore she must take the direct responsibility in terms of suffering, hardship and violence.

Mrs Thatcher: A special regulation has to be brought before this House to alter the formula contained in that Act. Every single thing she says he should turn against the NUM, for their callousness in not looking after their members, in denying them a ballot, and in refusing to give them any help (Labour protests).

Mr Cranley Ousley (Woking, C), newly-elected chairman of the Conservative back bench, 1922, the committee was chosen when he said: "There is no excuse or justification for the disgraceful exhibition by Mr Eric Heffer and some of Mr Scargill's other friends in this House."

Mrs Thatcher: The Government replied to a specific request from the Opposition for a statement. The government was then prevented, I understand almost physically, from making that statement. I hope the Labour front bench will dissociate themselves from those scenes.

Conservative MPs shouted "Answer" to Mr Hattersley who did not.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP: It would have been wiser if the Prime Minister, instead of rounding up the deduction from 75p to £1, had used section 6(2) of the Act to introduce regulations which would have meant an increase to £15.50, which would have been in line with the increase of supplementary benefit.

That would have been fair to the miners. It would have demonstrated (loud Labour protests) there are some of us in this House who are going to... (Further protest)

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Hattersley: Why try to sneak the order through?

change that formula would have required new regulations to have been brought before the House. The formula was used this year as in every year since 1980.

I would have thought Dr Owen would have joined me in expecting unions calling members out on strike to have some obligation to pay strike money.

Mr Michael Stern (Bristol, North-west, C): The scenes of disruption in this House last night were disgraceful and the MPs concerned should apologise to the Speaker and the House as a whole.

Mrs Thatcher: It would be a nice way of ending a very ugly incident if they did.

Mr Jack Downard (Easington, Lab): Does not the continued refusal of the Prime Minister to answer Mr Hattersley's direct question demonstrate what a guilty conscience she has about the matter?

Will she say clearly that the Government has power under the regulations not to increase... (loud Conservative protest). It ever proof was needed, is it not the case that the main purpose of the Government in this strike is simply to break the power of the NUM?

Mrs Thatcher: The statement by Mr Fowler arose from the precise application of the formula in the 1980 Act. If that is to be altered, secondary legislation has to be brought before the House. It has been applied precisely every year since the Act started.

If he has any conscience, he should address it to the NUM who called their people out on strike.

Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (Barnley and Spennithorne, C): The best possible way of providing a good Christmas for miners' families is for the miners to return to work tomorrow, and not to rely on hand-outs from local authorities and others.

Mrs Thatcher: Hand-outs by local councils are causing deep offence to many ratepayers (Labour shouts of "Where?") I agree that a return to normal work by striking miners would be the best thing for their families and for the country. All on this side would welcome that very much indeed.

Mr David Nellist, one of the Labour MPs prominent in Wednesday night's disturbances, was severely rebuked by Mr John Biffen, leader of the Commons, during questions on next week's business.

What Mr Nellist engaged in last night (Mr Biffen said) was a destruction of parliamentary procedure. It was not only offensive to the House but also to the Opposition Front Bench.

Mr Nellist (Coventry South East), referring to next Monday's debate in Opposition time on the reduction in value of the supplementary benefit for the families of miners on strike, described the Government's action as theft.

The decision was an act of desperation by the Government (he said).

Tory MPs seek end to equality commission

DISCRIMINATION

A review of the operations of the Equal Opportunities Commission is currently taking place and the Commission will be asked to report by the end of next year, the Minister of State, Home Office, told the Commons.

But responding to Conservative MPs who suggested the Commission be abolished, Mr Waddington said the Government had no plans to amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 under which it was established.

Mr Andrew McKay (East Berkshire, C), who opened the exchanges, said that since its inception in 1975 the Commission had only investigated eight cases of alleged discrimination. He said that only one of these had been referred to the Commission by a woman.

Mr Waddington: Formal investigations are only a part of the work of the commission. In fact, he said, the Commission had received 1,000 complaints in 1983, for instance, and had resolved 359 complaints without recourse to litigation or formal investigation.

It is obviously right for the Government to review the operations of non-departmental bodies from time to time. Such a regular review is taking place and conclusions will be announced in the spring.

Mr Kenneth Short (Wolverhampton North East, Lab): Mr Norman Waddington, general secretary of the TUC, said on the radio this morning that the TUC had collected information about the effect of privatisation in hospitals showing that cleaning firms were using girls of 15 to clean hospital wards. In addition, they were being paid lower wages than the women who had previously been employed.

The minister ought to be referring this practice to the commission and strengthening them in the job they need to do.

Mr Waddington: It does not need a minister to refer a matter to the commission, it is in her own hands.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham Edgbaston, C): There are many who believe the Commission has exhausted what opportunities it may have had. In Mr Waddington's positive words there is no better way for the Government can spend £3,336,000 than this?

Mr Waddington: Although we have a duty to see that appropriate management systems are used and that money is not wasted, at the same time we also have an obligation to see that discrimination on grounds of sex is done away with. We have no plans to amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 which was directed to that end.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be the debate on the Opposition motion on social security benefits for strikers' families. Social Security Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on the national heritage and Wednesdays: Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, completion of remaining stages.

Thursday: Debate on the Royal Navy. Friday: Private Member's motion on the licensing laws.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Tuesday: Debate on television the House. Wednesday: Debates on the unemployable, the production and sale of books, and on the Ethiopian famine. Thursday: Prosecution of Offences Bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on Warnock Committee report on human fertilisation and embryology.

No cut in overseas aid: Unesco told Britain will leave

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The announcement by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, that Britain was giving notice to Unesco of withdrawal from that organization at the end of next year was greeted with protests from both sides of the Commons during the debate on public expenditure on overseas aid. He said that the position would be reconsidered at the end of next year in the light of the result of the general election to be held then. The decision about the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization would have no effect on 1985-86 expenditure but would keep Britain's options open.

He also announced that there would be no cut in overseas aid at the previously planned figure of £1,130m, but some cuts in the administrative costs of issuing entry certificates to Commonwealth citizens, which would be set at £10. This would raise about £1.6 million in a full year. This would represent a relatively small addition to the total cost of travel of that kind.

The Diplomatic Service had been able to respond to rising demand with substantially reduced manpower. The service cost less than half the cost of running the London Borough of Haringey, and was giving better and better value for money.

In some places, notably in the Middle East, there was a regrettable and since that cost was rising, it made sense to consider whether they needed to maintain precisely the same geographical pattern of posts, almost all of them subordinate posts, and he would give fuller details later, after consultations had been completed. It was not a new process, as 32 posts had been closed under the last Labour Government.

Britain was also not satisfied that the developing world was getting value from Unesco and had long been in the process of re-evaluating its practical proposals. Some progress has been made and he acknowledged the importance of the views of Commonwealth and Commonwealth partners, but much remained to be done.

The general conference next autumn had a key part to play and throughout 1985 they would continue to be in seeking reform in co-operation with other countries as vigorously as they had this year. They could not, however, be confident that adequate reforms would be achieved by the end of the year.

He had decided that it would be right to close about 10 small posts, almost all of them subordinate posts, and he would give fuller details later, after consultations had been completed. It was not a new process, as 32 posts had been closed under the last Labour Government.

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He confirmed that the overall provision of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1985-86 remained as previously planned at £1,870 million. There had been no cut in that overall figure. More specific figures would be published early next year in the customary way. Press speculation had been thoroughly misleading and had caused unjustified anxiety.

The volume of work being handled by the Foreign Office and the diplomatic missions abroad was growing in size and becoming increasingly complex.

Two changes would be made. As from January 1, 1985, the standard fee for entry clearance on foreign passports coming to the United Kingdom would be increased from £10 to £10. This would raise in a full year £2.4 million.

From the same date a fee would be payable to cover part of the administrative costs of issuing entry certificates to Commonwealth citizens, which would be set at £10. This would raise about £1.6 million in a full year. This would represent a relatively small addition to the total cost of travel of that kind.

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the money could be better spent elsewhere.

The military aid programme amounted to about £12 million and was a useful arm of foreign policy. The amount was divided almost equally between sending British military personnel overseas to train certain countries' armed forces and receiving trainees from those forces here. Economies of £500,000 a year would give less scope to respond to requests at short notice but existing commitments would be fulfilled as planned.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's own information activity cost £22 million, mostly by payments to the Central Office of Information for a wide variety of services. Some economies could be made without loss of effectiveness and commissions to the COI would be scaled down by about £1 million.

The British Council was celebrating its 50th anniversary. 70 years of solid achievement. The council had to live in a world of changing costs. It must absorb part of its own rising costs as part of the overall need to keep down Government expenditure.

He would look to the council for £1.2 million savings, about half the total rise in costs this year. The Council would receive almost 25 million more in 1985-86 than its original planned provision.

There had been strong support expressed in many parts of the House for the BBC's external services which had more than 100 million regular listeners around the world. The fact that so many of those devoted listeners were from their own national media should turn to the BBC for an unbiased account of events in Britain's national interest.

But the BBC had also had to face some increase in costs and he did not believe it would be right to meet them in full. He would be looking for savings of about 1 per cent in their total expenditure.

Nevertheless, there would still be an increased provision for the external services of about £750,000. The capital programme would be more than £100 million approved in 1981 to improve the audibility of the service was well advanced and would be maintained with additional funds of more than 25 million for the capital programme was in addition to the increase of £750,000.

The provision for the programme of overseas aid remained unchanged at £1,130 million. The figure published in 1985-86. That figure was being maintained. Within that figure, Britain's capacity to provide emergency assistance to Ethiopia and other countries suffering from drought and famine would be fully maintained.

The aid programme was only part of the story. Private capital played a vital and increasing role for many years. The aid programme was only part of the story. Private capital played a vital and increasing role for many years. The aid programme was only part of the story. Private capital played a vital and increasing role for many years.

investment could make a particularly important contribution.

Mr Stuart Holland, Opposition spokesman on overseas development, said the Government's claim that there had not been a cut in the aid programme had to be taken against a background in which that programme had been reduced.

The Government had had 18 months' warning of the Ethiopian crisis but it did not act until October.

He deplored what the Foreign Secretary had said about Unesco, which was disappointing and unwarranted. Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said all they wanted to know was that if the currency movement proved to be more damaging, the Foreign Secretary would ensure that in real terms that sum remained the same.

He would have hoped the Foreign Secretary would have been able to announce he had been able to convince his colleagues that in the national interest and influence of the Government would give more to the BBC overseas service and to the British Council.

The decision on Unesco was lamentable and quite illogical they never increased their influence in by opting out. No one would say there was anything wrong with Unesco. Britain should get together with its EEC and Commonwealth and agree what was required. Nobody could resist that.

The Bill was read a second time.

replaces the Dumping at Sea Act 1974 and makes provision for regulating the supply and use of pesticides.

The Government was committed to ensure that pesticides use was the minimum necessary for efficient production and distribution of food and to safeguard human health. No pesticide would be released unless it was demonstrably beneficial to agriculture, horticulture or public health.

The Bill was read a second time.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

There does not seem much chance now that anything of substance will come from the dialogue begun this week between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Dr Garret FitzGerald.

It is hard to believe after the exchange of criticisms between them that the Irish electorate would be likely to agree to the amendment of sections 2 and 3 of their constitution. Yet the acceptance of British sovereignty in Northern Ireland would be the necessary condition for any successful negotiation.

If Dr FitzGerald thought that the prospects of a settlement were still alive he would presumably not have blown his top. That he did so suggests that he now thinks it more important to repair his political bridges at home than to pursue a settlement with Britain which is no longer available.

That Mrs Thatcher spoke as she did in the House of Commons yesterday suggests that she believes that the present dialogue is doomed. Otherwise she would hardly have dismissed Dr FitzGerald's complaints so brusquely as to say that she did not understand his statement in any way.

Lack of finesse in British diplomacy

If this pessimistic analysis is correct it is a pity. An agreement between the British and Irish governments based upon the acceptance by the Irish people that they no longer claimed sovereignty over the whole of Ireland would have been the most hopeful development for the North for many years.

The present impasse can be attributed partly to a lack of finesse in British diplomacy, but also to a more fundamental division on the substance of policy.

At the end of the negotiations at Chequers there were no specific agreements, except on pursuing the dialogue, but both sides thought that they had established a good relationship. Mrs Thatcher liked Dr FitzGerald and his ministerial colleagues, which is not unimportant.

But then came Mrs Thatcher's press conference on Monday evening, followed by her remarks in the House of Commons on Tuesday, and then Mr Douglas Hurd's press conference in Belfast on Wednesday.

The Irish have three principal complaints: that the tone of those comments did not correspond with the way in which the issues had been discussed at Chequers; that the detailed proposals in the New Ireland Forum report were dismissed in summary fashion without acknowledging its broadly constructive and conciliatory approach; and that in playing down the idea that there was alienation among Roman Catholics in the north, British ministers were reflecting out of hand the basic analysis of the Irish Government.

It would be difficult to acquit British ministers of the charge of diplomatic clumsiness. In their choice of words they might have shown more appreciation of Dr FitzGerald's position. To display sensitivity in the conduct of diplomacy is not weakness but commonsense.

It would also have been wise to accept, as British ministers have in effect done in the past, that there is alienation among many Roman Catholics in the north. If there were not, the British Government has been wasting its time in seeking any kind of new political arrangement. It is not a bad principle in politics to look unpleasant facts in the face.

But British Ministers are right that joint authority in Northern Ireland cannot be conceded to the republic, either by the front or the back door. There was specific disagreement at Chequers on that point in relation to a joint security commission.

The Irish saw that as a means to share authority in the north. British ministers insisted that there could be no more than consultation. Had they failed to do so, they would have been allowing the negotiations to proceed on a fraudulent basis. No state can concede ultimate authority over its internal security without compromising its own sovereignty.

The only way in which agreement might have been reached on that question could have been for the Irish to be prepared to build on the basis of consultation. They might have achieved a good deal of practical influence in that way.

But perhaps their failure to do so shows that the gap in policy remains too wide to be bridged. In that case, this episode will have confirmed in sad and bitter fashion that there is still no common ground in the province.

Civil servants' leaks unethical, ex-Whitehall chief says

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Lord Croom, former head of the Civil Service, yesterday came down firmly on the Government's side in its battle against leaks of sensitive or politically embarrassing information.

Lord Croom, who as Sir Douglas Allen was head of the Home Civil Service in the 1970s, surprised observers by the vehemence of his rejection of any ethical responsibility on civil servants to leak, even when their ministers were caught lying.

Lord Croom left no doubt that he had the case of the former Foreign Office clerk, Miss Sarah Tisdall, in mind.

He said: "Those who advocate an ethical duty of civil servants to inform on ministers, while remaining in their posts, have almost certainly not realized how intolerable that would be to civil servants and ministers alike."

He denounced as "extraordinary" the argument that civil servants had a duty to leak when they believed ministers were not telling the truth.

Delivering a lecture at the University of Salford, Lord Croom damned with faint praise the idea of "freedom of information" saying that the

notion was being manipulated by those who wanted to make it more difficult for the Government to govern.

Lord Croom, who is now chairman of the British National Oil Corporation, remains in touch with his former colleagues and his remarks undoubtedly reflect the views of senior mandarins.

In a phrase that will delight the Prime Minister, he said there was an inverse correlation between the practicability of open government and the proportion of our national activity which is state controlled. In other words, the less the state does, the less need there is for secrecy.

It was "foolish" to put forward the idea of the public interest to defend civil servants who leaked classified material. The growth of leaking had nothing to do with excessive secrecy, the main recent leaks had occurred in areas which would be protected even if a freedom of information law were passed.

"Civil servants are servants of the Crown with defined duties to the government of the day, in which to all intents and purposes the concept of the Crown is embodied."

Barrister stole colleague's cheques

A deputy circuit judge stole cheques sent to a colleague at his chambers because he was in financial difficulties. Hertford magistrates were told yesterday.

Peter Morris, a barrister, described in court as a specialist in crime, also used a cheque for £246 to open a building society account using a false name. But on his visits to the Norwich Building Society branch in Peterborough he was unaware that he was being filmed.

When he was confronted with his crimes, Morris, aged 46, first claimed that his son was a drug addict and had stolen the cheques and then that he, Morris, had needed the money to pay for an abortion for his girl friend. Both claims were false, the court was told.

Yesterday, Morris, of Milton Road, Cambridge, admitted theft, obtaining by deception, and forgery. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment concurrently on each charge, suspended for two years.

Miss Claire Reggiori, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court that in September Mr Walter Hawkesworth, a colleague of Morris, returned to his Cambridge chambers and found that a cheque for £246 sent to him was missing from the clerk's office.

He discovered that the cheque had been paid into the Norwich Building Society branch. Morris had opened the account in the name of Hawkesworth.



Family struggle: Mrs Ayse Halli, a Turkish Cypriot, pictured yesterday with her family, which may be split up by a deportation order.

A lengthy battle to prevent her deportation from Britain is expected to come to a head within a few days as the Home Office considers fresh representations by Mr John Silkin, MP, for Mrs Halli, who lives in Brockley, south-east

London with her daughter Shebneem, aged 3, and her sons Sabah, aged 12, and Serhan, aged 7. If she has to leave she will have to take her daughter with her. Mrs Halli's parents have been British citizens since 1947. In 1971 they came to live in Britain with their son Ahmed. Ayse Halli followed shortly with her Cypriot husband, Ahmed, who was granted British citizenship.

But Mrs Halli was held to have the same nationality as her husband and they were deported in 1981 shortly before her third child was born.

While in Cyprus she separated from her husband and last year returned to her family in England, but was faced with another deportation order. Last night relatives held a candlelight demonstration outside the Home Office.

High Nissan pay lures Austin men away

By Clifford Webb

Motoring Correspondent

Nissan, the Japanese car company, has lured 19 senior managers from the British car industry to run the car assembly plant it is building at Washington, Tyne-and-Wear. The prime target for the "head-hunters" was Austin Rover's Cowley complex, from which six manufacturing staff were taken.

Others come from Ford, Vauxhall, Rolls-Royce, and Land Rover. All are believed to have been tempted away by up to twice their existing salaries.

At Cowley, however, an equally important factor was managers' frustration with production losses caused by wildcat strikes and constant pressure from directors for improved results.

Nissan has insisted on a single union for its 500 Washington employees and a no-strike agreement.

The most senior Austin Rover recruit is Mr. John Cusnaghan, aged 38, the manufacturing manager at Cowley South works. He joins Nissan next week at a reported salary of £30,000 as production director. Mr. Cusnaghan was quoted in *The Engineer* as describing the move as "an opportunity I could not miss".

Nissan originally set its sights even higher. An offer by the company was rejected by Mr. Andrew Barr, one of the two joint managing directors at Austin Rover.

Tourist and petrol road signs sought

By Philip Webster

Political Reporter

The Government was urged yesterday to allow more road signs advertising national historic monuments, petrol stations, hotels, restaurants and other services.

The French practice of signposting castles and other buildings of interest when they are visible from main roads, and approved flag signs for hotels and restaurants, paid for by their operators, should be adopted, according to Mr Gerry Neale, Conservative MP for North Cornwall.

He launched his campaign in a letter to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport. It called for a more informative, imaginative and commercial roads policy.

Millions of vehicles used the M4 out of London each year, it said, yet there was no sign pointing out Windsor Castle.

Mr Neale said signposting on local roads to tourist facilities and attractions was poor and inconsistent. Approved flag signs should become the responsibility of local parish and town councils.

He suggested a standard programme for signs for amenities such as fun parks, museums, potteries, bed and breakfast facilities and tea shops, all of which might bear a county symbol if desired.

Mr Neale said that the proposals would be likely to encourage tourists and so increase employment potential and help small businesses. On suggestions that installing more signs would create road safety dangers, he said that road users' hesitation when unable to find signs was already a danger. Standard signs might be expected to improve the environment in many areas where undesirable signs were proliferating.

He asked Mr Ridley to invite county councils to join the Department of Transport, in starting a comprehensive liberalized sign policy.

Cable sponsors find favour

Most people will support sponsored programmes on cable television, chiefly because they oppose regulation of the medium, according to a survey by MORI commissioned by the National Consumer Council.

The council said yesterday that 61 per cent of people interviewed favoured sponsored programmes and 18 per cent were against. On sponsorship, 19 per cent thought it would bring better programmes, 14 per cent that it would make cable cheaper, and 12 per cent that it would bring a better choice of programmes.


Research ship's delivery delayed

A one-year research programme in the Indian Ocean has been postponed, perhaps until 1986, because of delays in the delivery of a £7.25m ship.

The Government-backed Natural Environment Research Council said yesterday that a 2,300-tonne floating laboratory, Charles Darwin, had been due for completion by British Shipbuilders last February. But she had been dogged by propeller noise problems and is still being modified at Falmouth, Cornwall.

Hole in one

Mrs Jean Mason, aged 55, of Shaldon, Devon, had a hole in one on two consecutive days this week at the Teignmouth Golf Club. A club member said yesterday they will name the hole after her.



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Arafat arrival in Jordan finalizes the PLO break with Damascus

Under the protection of the king who drove it from Jordan in 1970, Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) last night prepared to formalize the split that has torn apart the Palestinian guerrilla movement for more than 18 months.

While Palestinian groups opposed to Mr Arafat were still threatening to create a rival PLO in Damascus, Mr Arafat's decision to turn up in Amman for the meeting of the PLO's Palestine National Council - still rather pompously called a "parliament-in-exile" - also means that his own break with Syria is now final.

Despite the absence of about 180 members of the Palestine National Council who live in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and who were prevented by the Israelis from travelling to Amman, the "parliament" achieved a quorum of its 379 members, thus producing the constitutional legality which the PLO so often seeks for its own movement and so rarely respects in others.

It was, of course, not lost on the Syrians that the meeting was to be inaugurated by King Hussein of Jordan, the very man who broke the power of the PLO 14 years ago by driving it into Lebanon and, ultimately,

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

into further disaster. Syria's condemnation of the whole affair as a betrayal of the Arab cause was made even sharper by the fact that the Palestine National Council meeting might otherwise have been held in Damascus under the stern auspices of the Syrian Baath Party.

The editor of the Syrian party newspaper *Al Baath* used some stock rhetoric yesterday in condemning Mr Arafat as "a traitor at the service of Zionist and imperialist masters" and gave a warning that the Palestine people "will know how to punish him" for "liquidating forever the Palestine cause".

The daily Damascus paper *Tishrin* compared Mr Arafat to the assassinated President Sadat of Egypt, a comparison that illustrated Syria's own fear that the Palestine National Council in Amman will give a mandate to King Hussein to negotiate another peace agreement with Israel.

Extremist Palestinian groups based in Damascus, together with the PLO guerrilla units, which broke away from Mr Arafat last year, were encouraged to echo the same sort of diatribes.

By contrast, Jordanian newspapers trumpeted King

Hussein's leading role in the Palestine National Council meeting. Jordan has a 26-strong Government delegation at the conference, which is also expected to be addressed by Mr Chadi Klibi, the General Secretary of the Arab League and Mr Habib al-Chatti, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Mr Arafat himself will have to win a vote of confidence from the Palestine National Council - something which should be achieved with little difficulty since all those in Amman are his supporters - and delegates will then discuss the prospects for a Palestinian homeland.

They will find King Hussein as personally pessimistic as ever, although the aftermath of the American elections does give President Reagan his own peace plan for the region.

If the Palestine National Council does give its support to King Hussein to start talks with the Israelis on the return of the West Bank, then the delegates in Amman will have to try to safeguard their own independence afterwards. To be muzzled by the Jordanians once such a "peace" process begins may turn out to be almost as painful as being muzzled by the Syrians.



Eyes left: Lebanon's US-trained special forces on parade in Beirut yesterday

Syria ousts US in Gemayel's rhetoric of gratitude

From Our Own correspondent Beirut

Last year, it was President Reagan who was thanked so profusely for his efforts to reunite Lebanon after eight years of civil war. Yesterday President Gemayel was expressing his deep gratitude to President Assad of Syria for his "continuous and tireless"

efforts to resolve the nine-year old civil war.

Thus were the shifting allegiances of Lebanon represented at yesterday's Independence Day ceremony outside Beirut, as three Hawker Hunter jets, the entire Lebanese Air Force, flew overhead.

The Gemayel speech included the now mandatory references to the liberation of southern Lebanon from the

Israeli occupation army - "Lebanon's salvation begins with the salvation of the south", the President said - but there was, needless to say, no mention of the large Syrian Army in eastern and northern Lebanon.

Lebanese troops from the largely Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade of the National Army sent a token contingent to the Independence Day parade in

the Christian suburb of Yarz, Mr Gemayel did talk of a new national charter for Lebanon - something which opposition Muslim groups have long demanded - but gave no details. The sound of small arms fire could be heard during the ceremony from the hills to the south of Yarz, where Lebanon's civil war was still being fought out between the Army and Druze militia.

Police lay siege to Cairo campus

Cairo (Reuters) - Egyptian police charged at thousands of student demonstrators at Cairo's al-Azhar University, using tear gas and batons, eyewitnesses said. Several students were injured.

One student said the demonstration was in favour of strict Islamic dress for female students and better conditions at the 1,000-year-old university, which attracts Muslim students from all over the world.

The students retreated to the faculty grounds, throwing bricks, wooden signs and stones, and barricaded themselves inside.

Lome nations agree deal

Brussels - Very reluctantly, leaders of the 64 developing countries associated with the EEC were prepared yesterday to accept a £4,500m aid deal over five years (Ian Murry writes).

They had the terms of this third Lome Convention spelled out to them in detail in Brussels, noting it was for £300m more than had been offered last month.

Final details of the new convention are to be ironed out by officials before the formal signing, due in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on December 8.

Bolivian crisis as two quit

La Paz (Reuters) - Bolivia's left wing coalition Government was plunged into a Cabinet crisis a few hours after the political parties accepted an offer by President Siles Zúñiga to step down a year early and call elections on June 16.

The ministers for Labour and Mining, both Communists, resigned when the President rejected proposals to nationalize a local bank and a grain mill.

Peru dismissal

The commander of Peru's Civil Guard, the paramilitary police force, General Juan Bolognesi, has been dismissed pending investigation of a charge by the Comptroller-General's office that \$600,000 (£500,000) intended for the acquisition of police equipment had been misappropriated.

Marcos doubts

Manila (AP) - Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop of Manila, said he was not convinced by official claims that President Marcos was seriously ill. The Government's reputation for telling the truth was "the worst imaginable", he said. Political killings, page 12

Romania's man

Bucharest (Reuters) - President Nicolae Ceausescu was unanimously re-elected Communist Party general secretary for another five-year term. In its closing session, the party congress adopted his policy report, setting the seal on further economic austerity.

Body dumped

Dhaka (AP) - The beheaded and mutilated body of a senior vice-chairman of the Bangladesh People's League, Mahbub Alam, aged 43, was found inside a tin container left at the central radio station of Kamalapur in Dhaka. He had enemies among people to whom he advanced loans, press reports said.

Train disaster

Bombay (Reuters) - At least 30 people were killed and 200 injured when a packed suburban train was derailed in Bombay. Seven carriages left the track and four others overturned while the train was passing through Byculla station.

Libyan term

Accra (AFP) - Ghana is sending 500 teachers to work in Libya, in spite of the continuing shortage of teachers in the country, the National Association of Teachers complained at a press conference. Most are going to teach English.

Forger held

Hamburg (Reuters) - The self-confessed Hitler diaries forger Konrad Kujaw was arrested one week after being freed from custody. The court accepted the prosecution's motion that there was a possibility he might flee the country.

Ticket louts

New York (AFP) - New York police last year issued 48,000 parking tickets to UN diplomats, but most of the fines remain unpaid, losing the city nearly \$1m in revenue. One Senegalese car collected 286 tickets.

Sentence cut

Belgrade - The eight year prison sentence on Dr Vojislav Seselj, a Sarajevo university lecturer, for his alleged counter-revolutionary activities, has been cut in half on appeal.

Sail power

Tokyo (Reuters) - The 26,000-ton Pioneer, the carrier designed specifically to include a computerized sail system, left on its maiden voyage from Saiki in Japan for Seattle.

Israelis kill second student protester

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah

For the second time in 24 hours, Israeli troops yesterday killed an unarmed Palestinian demonstrator while firing live ammunition to disperse a West Bank demonstration staged in support of Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Another 16-year-old protester was hit in the thigh during the incident, bringing to seven the number of young Arabs wounded by Israeli Army gunfire in the occupied territories during the past two days.

A senior doctor at Ramallah hospital said that the dead youth, Mr Bakir Abdullah, aged 21, had died on the operating table from chest and abdominal wounds received from a single high velocity bullet. Dismayed relatives attempted to defy a

military order imposed by troops ringing the building and take away the body for burial.

The revival of what Palestinians here describe angrily as Israel's "shoot-to-kill policy" in the West Bank has dealt a severe blow to efforts by the national unity Government to improve the atmosphere among the 1.3 million Arabs now living under military rule. "It just proves that the Labour Party is no different from the Likud when it comes to killing Arabs," one local merchant, who asked not to be named, said.

He was referring to the fact that since September, the West Bank has been under the overall control of Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Defence Minister. In an apparent attempt to reduce the latest tension, Mr

Rabin rejected demands from senior army officers to close Bir Zeit, the Arab university, where a student demonstrator was shot dead on Wednesday.

However, the Arab governing body shut the campus yesterday in mourning. In a bitterly worded statement, it called on academics throughout the world to join a campaign to prevent "the use of raw and indiscriminate force by the Army against defenceless students".

According to a Palestinian journalist who witnessed yesterday's shooting, trouble began after a group of schoolgirls waving black flags gathered in Ramallah's main square to protest against the shooting of the Bir Zeit student. They were quickly joined by about 50 youths chanting slogans

González appeals for calm

Protest strike halts Basque country

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Basque region was almost completely paralysed by a one-day general strike yesterday. The stoppage was called to protest against the killing in Bilbao of Tuesday of a leading left-wing nationalist politician closely linked to ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

Public transport, banks, shops, schools, universities and even government offices shut down. Clashes, fierce at times, took place in Bilbao and San Sebastian between demonstrators and the police. Barricades put up by workers stopped private cars reaching industrial areas.

In Madrid meanwhile, doctors were fighting to save the life of General Luis Rosón, who was seriously wounded by two gunmen from ETA's military wing in a Madrid street hours after the Bilbao killing. The general's condition was reported to be worsening.

As tension rose, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, urged Spaniards yesterday not to overdramatize. "If anyone knows of a better solution let

him tell us", he said. He claimed that, by acting firmly, his government was slowly beating the terrorists.

Yesterday's general strike preceded the funeral of Dr Santiago Brouard, head of one of the parties in the Basque nationalist "People's Unity" coalition, which regards the degree of autonomy granted to the Basque country as inadequate.

The coalition told Basque socialists not to take part in the funeral as it might be regarded as a provocation. Wrapped in the red, white and green Basque flag, the coffin was to be taken in a procession from Bilbao town hall to Lequeitio, a fishing port along the coast, for burial. Strong detachments of police guarded the route.

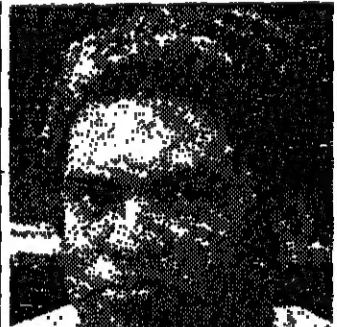
A bar in Bilbao, said to be frequented by drug addicts, was blown up yesterday for the second time in a few days. BTA claimed responsibility, as it did for an overnight explosion which damaged a San Sebastian supermarket.

In the face of protests from Basque marchers, the Senate approved on Wednesday night an anti-terrorist law which increases penalties for terrorist crimes and reduces the sentences of those who repent.

The Bill, provoked by the killing of an army captain a year ago, also permits the Government to close down news media if it deems that they are defending terrorism.

Five others, all alleged members of an anarchist group called the Anti-Capitalist Autonomous Commandos, an ETA splinter organization, were given sentences ranging from six months to a year.

Linaza Etchevarria was arrested on September 29 in Biarritz and is wanted by Spain in connexion with seven alleged murders.



Mr Athulathmudali: Fear of false rumours

Sri Lanka's 30 hours of curfew

From Donovan Moldrich Colombo

Sri Lankans awoke yesterday to find that a 30-hour curfew had come into force at midnight and would remain in operation till six this morning.

As only one newspaper had carried a stop press announcement, news of the curfew was broadcast at 10-minute intervals by the state-owned radio and spread by word of mouth.

While most people rushed to buy food, which soared in price, early officegoers and schoolchildren were directed home by police. The Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said there had been only one isolated incident late on Wednesday night which had been put down effectively and firmly with no injury or loss of life but that anti-social elements would try to create trouble by spreading false rumours.

In the incident the Minister referred to, a Tamil shop at Thimbirigassaya in Colombo was set on fire by unknown persons.

Mr Athulathmudali said the Government was not over-reacting but had imposed the curfew as a purely precautionary measure.

Parliament met yesterday to continue its budget debate, and the Minister of Lands, Mr Gamini Bissanayake said the curfew had been imposed because the Government did not want to run the risk of a repetition of the ethnic disturbances in July 1983 in which more than 400 people died.

Yesterday and today were declared holidays and curfew permits were issued at police stations only to those engaged in essential services and airline passengers.

To ensure that there is no breakdown in food supplies the state-owned cooperative wholesale establishment, the marketing department, and the port cargo corporation were declared essential services and bakers were directed to bake as much bread as possible for which flour supplies were made available.

Streets in Colombo and all over the island were deserted with no public or private transport.

Opposition heals rift on call-up

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

The parliamentary caucus of the progressive Federal Party, the main opposition in the white chamber of the South African Parliament, yesterday endorsed two controversial decisions taken by the party's federal council last weekend, which called for an end to compulsory military conscription and opened membership of the party to all races.

Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, the Afrikaans leader of the predominantly English-speaking party convened the caucus after the resignation of the spokesman on defence and moves by other senior members to call a federal congress of the party to try to reverse the decisions.

On the question of military conscription, which is compulsory for all white males, Dr van Zyl Slabbert seems to have persuaded most caucus members that the new position is no great departure from previous policy, which has long favoured a professional all-volunteer army.

He agreed that by opening its doors to all races the party would be violating the Prohibition of Political Interference Act, which bans racially-mixed parties, but argued that the law had already been flouted by the Labour Party in August's elections to the new Coloured Chamber of Parliament.

Angola dam

Lisbon (Reuters) - Angola has signed a \$900m (£750m) agreement with Brazil and the Soviet Union for the construction of a hydroelectric plant on the river Kwanza, 250 miles south Luanda, a Portuguese news agency reported.

Washington to resume its links with Iraq

Washington (Reuters) - The United States and Iraq will announce on Monday that they are resuming diplomatic talks broken after the 1976 Arab-Israeli war, American officials said.

They believed the move would help to strengthen Iraq's more moderate stance in the Middle East.

The renewed ties, due to be announced when the Iraqi Foreign Minister Mr Tariq Aziz meets President Reagan at the White House, will "put a

symbolic political stamp on relations that have been developing for some time", one US official said.

The Reagan Administration has for several years expressed willingness to heal the breach, and Baghdad's decision to do so gives Washington a foreign policy advantage.

The move will not affect Washington's official policy of neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. But the US has long blamed the continuation of the war on Iran's "intransigence".



● STILL QUEUING: A Polish family waiting for food yesterday at a Hamburg refugee centre after defecting this week.

Another 17 Poles jumped ship when their liner made a stop on the northern port of Travemünde, bringing to 302 the number arriving in West Germany in less than a week.

The latest group defected on Wednesday when the cruise ship, Rogalin, docked in Travemünde, near the East German border. The ship was bound for its home port of Szczecin from Copenhagen.

Hamburg authorities disclosed on Tuesday that 192 Poles had defected from the liner, Stefan Batory.

The Chad pact uproar

France faces choice between humiliation and war

From Diana Geddes Paris

As the days drag on with no sign of a Libyan move to complete its withdrawal from Chad, observers here increasingly feel that France is trapped between international humiliation on the one hand and war with Libya on the other.

They see the Libyan air attack on Chad Government forces on Tuesday, followed by the reconnaissance flights by Libyan aircraft over Chad territory on Wednesday, as further acts of deliberate provocation by Colonel Gaddafi.

The French Government, meanwhile, is still refusing to give any indication of its intentions with regard to Chad,

or of what agreement, if any, was reached between Colonel Gaddafi and President Mitterrand at their meeting in Crete on November 15.

At first there was talk in government circles of the withdrawal deadline being extended by three or four days, then by one or two weeks. But no one outside the few taken into President Mitterrand's confidence seems to know for certain. "We are in a complete fog", M Pierre Messmer, a former Gaullist Prime Minister, commented.

Some suspect that no precise deadline has been given, but that the Government is simply supposing that the Libyans will leave, sooner rather than later, because it is in their interest to leave now, get rid of the French

and then return in, say, six months' time.

It would seem to be imperative that the Chad affair is settled before the traditional annual Franco-African summit, due in Burundi on December 11 and 12, and which is to be attended by President Mitterrand.

So far, however, France has not done much to put pressure on Libya other than engage in a little satellite-raising, in the form of putting on alert 250 French troops stationed in the neighbouring Central African Republic, and sending two Jaguar aircraft on a reconnaissance flight over Chad on Sunday.

A claim yesterday by the Libyans that a new joint commission of French and Libyan observers had been set up to monitor the completion of

the Libyan withdrawal was described as "inaccurate" by the French Government.

"There are no French military observers on the ground", the Ministry of Defence insisted - without making clear, however, whether observers were to be sent.

Many feel that France would be extremely reluctant to send troops back into Chad. To do so would be to admit the failure of the Government's diplomacy, which is based on negotiation rather than armed intervention. It would, furthermore, be unlikely to be any more effective than the previous operation, unless France were willing to escalate its action into an armed confrontation with Libya, with all that would entail.

On the other hand, the credibility of President Mitterrand, of the French "umbrella" for other African Francophone nations, and of France itself, is at stake.

Chad is insisting that it does not want any "half-measure" this time. "The French soldiers must not simply return; they must fight", Mr Goussara Lasson, the Chad Foreign Minister said.

Many feel that France would be extremely reluctant to send troops back into Chad. To do so would be to admit the failure of the Government's diplomacy, which is based on negotiation rather than armed intervention. It would, furthermore, be unlikely to be any more effective than the previous operation, unless France were willing to escalate its action into an armed confrontation with Libya, with all that would entail.

● ATHENS: The withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad has been delayed but is now "going very well", the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Abdel-Salam al-Turiki, said here yesterday.

"The French understand very well that because of the geographical problem there might be a delay in the complete withdrawal of our element of support", he said.

FitzGerald criticizes 'big four'

From Ian Murray Brussels

To try to build the EEC on its present budget was to attempt a self-evident absurdity, Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister said in Brussels last night.

In a "state of the EEC" speech to the centre for European Policy Studies, the current President of the European Council argued that the time was now ripe for the Community to build.

But it was impossible on the present budget of something like 1 per cent of the community's wealth. For real progress something of the order of between 3 and 7 per cent would be needed.

Dr FitzGerald, who presides at the European summit next month, pleaded for the vision necessary to identify the need for a further breakthrough towards European union.

There was wide criticism for the way in which Ireland saw the four big countries of the Community - Britain, France, West Germany and Italy - trying to run the Community

that their interests could best be served by being pursued separately rather than jointly with the smaller countries. He did not believe that any of the larger countries had come to terms with the fact that, there were only two military superpowers (the US and the Soviet Union) and two economic superpowers (the US and Japan).

Salonika (Reuters) - The Soviet Union held a commanding lead after three rounds of the twenty-sixth Chess Olympiad here after beating Hungary 4-0.

The Dutch team, fresh from a 3-1 defeat of India and now the Russians' closest rivals on the standings table, faces the Soviet team in the fourth round.

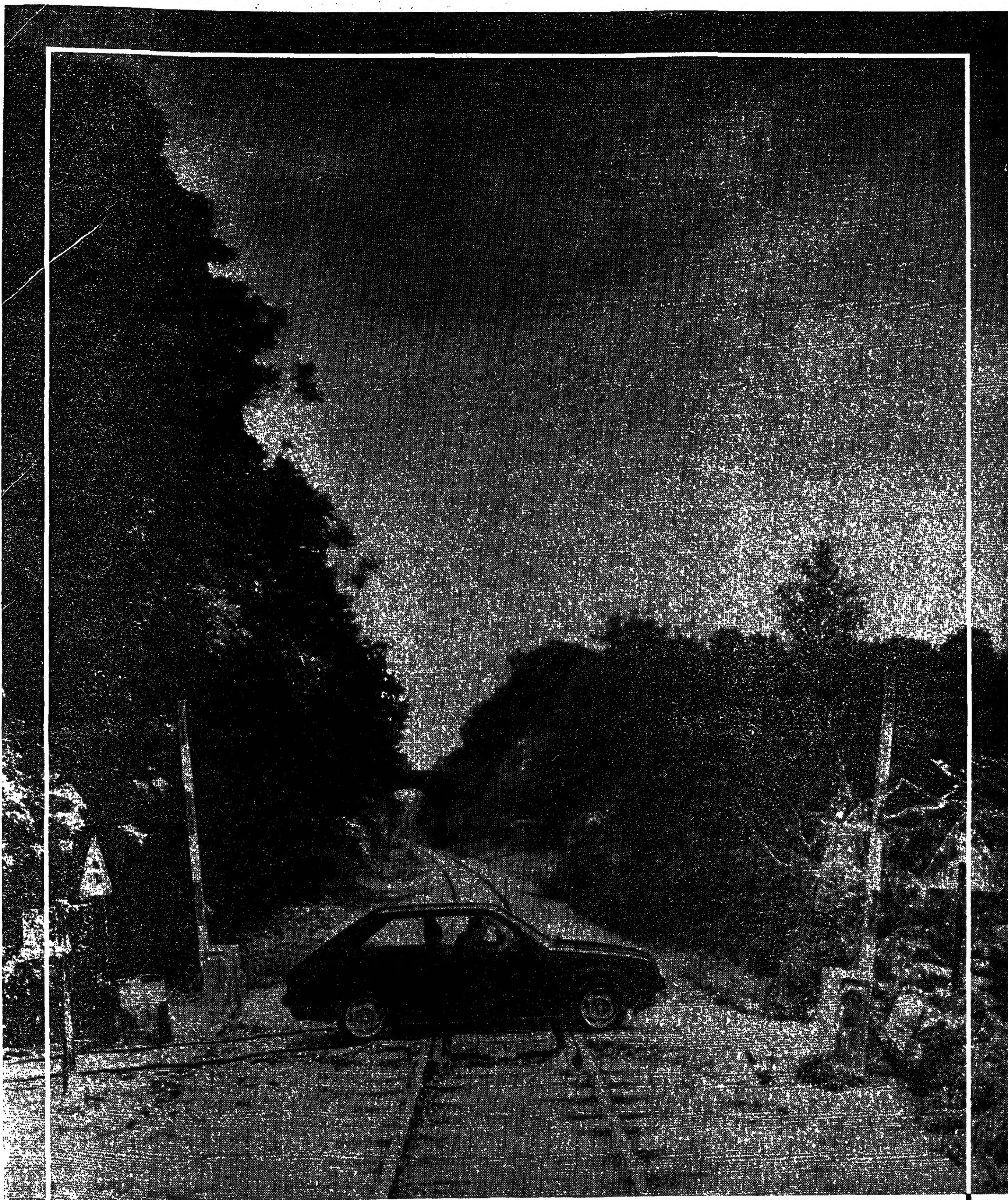
Third round men's results: Soviet Union 4, Hungary 0; Yugoslavia 2, Romania 0; Netherlands 3, India 1; Philippines 2, Bulgaria 2; Israel 2.5,

Canada 1.5; England 4, Italy 0; Greece (a) 2, Finland 2; U.S. 3, Wales 1; Iceland 4, Argentina 0; China 3, Singapore 1; West Germany 4, Mexico 0; Sweden 3, Belgium 1.

Lead standings - men: Soviet Union 12, Netherlands 10.5; England 10; West Germany 9.5; Yugoslavia 9; Israel 8.5; Sweden 8; France 8.5.

Women's third round results: China 2.5, England 0.5; Bulgaria 3, West Germany 0; Romania 3, Netherlands 0; Soviet Union 2.5, Spain 0.5; Poland 1.5, Yugoslavia 1.5.

Lead standings: China, Bulgaria 6.5; Soviet Union, Romania 7.5; Sweden 7.0; Yugoslavia, India, Hungary, England, Poland 6.5.



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East-West tensions

Soviet block peace group emerges to plead for missile-free Europe

By Patricia Clough

East German and Czechoslovak peace movements yesterday issued a joint appeal for a missile-free Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals in an unprecedented move which revealed the birth of an international peace network inside the Eastern block.

The appeal, made available exclusively to *The Times*, protested at the deployment of Soviet missiles in two countries, attacked big-power politics in Europe and called for "an open society which respects its men and women".

It was signed by members of Charter 77, the Czechoslovak human rights and peace group, including Mr Vaclav Havel, the well-known playwright, and East German peace protesters, including Frau Cajo Havemann, wife of the leading dissident, Herr Robert Havemann.

The statement was timed for the first anniversary of the deployment of Soviet SS21s and 22s in Eastern Europe, an event which aroused public revulsion against missiles in Czechoslovakia similar to that already existing in East Germany.

The Czechoslovak group had to overcome long-standing antagonism toward the Germans, as well as a strict police surveillance, to achieve the joint action which they said.

was evidence of a continuous alliance and cooperation. "This togetherness cannot come under threat from any historical resentment or any political police".

They also revealed indirectly that they had been in contact with Polish, Soviet and Hungarian peace groups and appealed to them and other Eastern European human rights groups to join the declaration.

The 29 signatories also appealed to Western peace movements for support. Using criticized Western governments - "those who tolerate social inequality" - and communist regimes.

The statement, passed on by the Polish Press, a London-based press agency specializing in Czechoslovak affairs, said the deployment of Soviet missiles meant peace was even more endangered and the arms race continued.

"This criticism is addressed to all states which are preparing for new world war, threaten their neighbours and often order about their own citizens. We protest anew against the siting and extension of nuclear complexes on our territory. We are thus in solidarity with the peace movements in the West."

"We regard the following step as the first and important one: no missiles in Europe, from the Ural Mountains to the Atlantic. Together with the Polish, Soviet and Hungarian independent peace movements, we believe that nuclear armament is not the reason for the present international crisis."

"Today's state of affairs is a result of the practice of power politics, that is, of the furthering of particular, often selfish interests."

"Those who think in terms of blocks and enemies render an honest dialogue impossible. Those who tolerate social inequality or even widen the gap are responsible for hunger and poverty. Those who deny the dignity of individual human beings, who deny freedom of opinion, necessarily tend also to solve national and international problems by means of violence."

"Peace is indivisibly linked to the implementation and observance of all human rights. We want to live in an open society which respects its men and women. The road to such a society does not lead through military barracks, a polluted environment, missile-launching ramps..."

"Peace in Europe and nuclear disarmament in the world."



Family Fend: Mrs Menaka Gandhi, estranged sister-in-law of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, campaigns in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, for next month's election. She is fighting the same seat as Rajiv in the state.

El Salvador civil war

Fighting stepped up despite peace talks

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The fighting in El Salvador has intensified since the first peace talks last month between Government and guerrilla leaders.

The American-backed Army has been hit hard, but a long-awaited guerrilla offensive failed to materialize. All neutral observers here agree that stalemate persists in the five-year civil war and that the reasons remain strong for both sides to continue a dialogue.

A close observer of the military scene drew an analogy with the ex-boxers Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. The Army is like Frazier, he said - strong firepower, keeps on coming forward, keeps getting bruised. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, like Ali, is good on mobility and stinging surprise attacks.

Since the October 15 peace talks the Army has mounted "sweep" operations, involving several thousand men, in the two provinces where the guerrillas exercise most control - Chalatenango and Morazan.

The guerrillas have been "swept", have been moved on, but they have suffered relatively little. The Army's inability, to operate in small, classic counter-insurgency units, instead trying to bludgeon the FMLN into submission with large cumbersome battalions, has meant that the guerrillas are receiving ample warning of the Army's arrival.

The two big Army operations of the last month, still in progress, have exposed soldiers

to a succession of light ambushes, inflicting small daily, but large aggregate, casualties.

An Army battalion trained in the United States entered last week the usually guerrilla-held town of La Laguna, high in the mountains of Chalatenango, in 16 lorries. The road up is tortuous and slow, yet officers in La Laguna expressed surprise to reporters that the guerrillas had managed to get away.

Showing that they still retain the capacity to dictate where and when they will fight, several hundred guerrillas attacked earlier this month the Government town of Suchitoto, 30 miles north of San Salvador.



fighting for 10 hours and causing well over 100 Army casualties.

Another smaller guerrilla unit destroyed an electricity station four miles north of San Salvador, killing more than 20 soldiers.

The severest loss of recent weeks for the Army was the death of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, unquestionably the Army's best field commander. He was also an important moderating influence among the officer corps.

Crash kills Army chiefs

Managua (Reuters). - Two of Nicaragua's top military men and eight soldiers were killed yesterday when a Soviet-made Mi8 helicopter crashed into a mountain.

A Defence Ministry bulletin said the helicopter crashed in bad weather in the Los Cedros range, 90 miles north-east of the capital. It happened in the Pantasma region of northern Jinotega province.

Among the dead were Sub-Commander Cristobal Subes, the military commander of Matagalpa and Jinotega provinces, and Sub-Commander

Alvaro Hernandez, a member of the army general staff.

The Deputy Foreign Minister, Señor Victor Hugo Tinoco has returned to Managua from the Mexican Pacific resort of Manzanillo after his eighth meeting since June with President Reagan's special envoy for Central America, Mr Harry Shlaudeman.

● STOCKHOLM: Several Swedish foreign aid workers in Nicaragua have joined the country's militias, prepared to fight in the event of an invasion by the American-backed Contra rebels (Christopher Mosey writes).

Emperor's horse goes on show

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A 2,000-year-old clay horse yesterday successfully negotiated a moving staircase and became the star of an exhibition Britain could not avoid to stage.

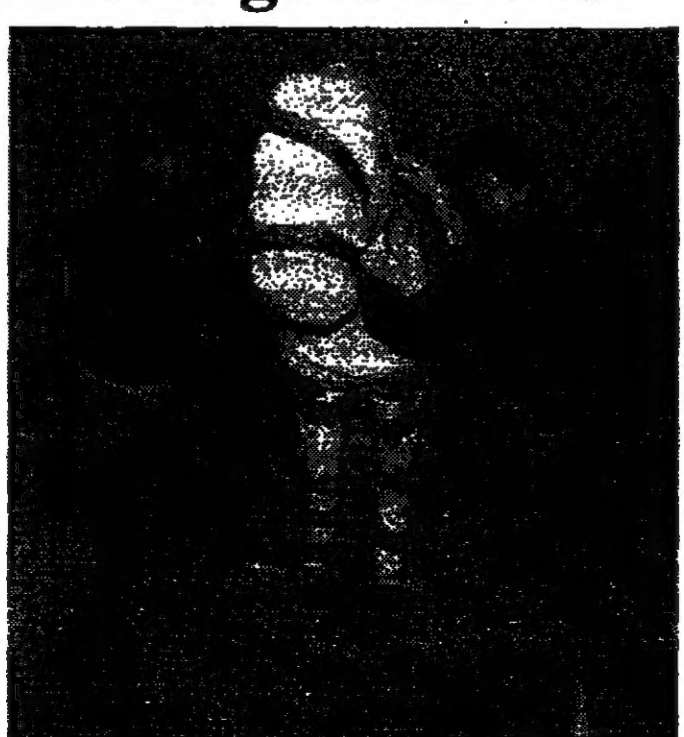
The horse, swathed in bandaging and tape in case of accidents, went up 40 steps leading into the Museum of Far-Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm. It forms part of the extraordinary finds made in the grave of the Chinese Emperor Qin Shihuang (221-210 BC) now on display in the museum.

Excavations at the grave near Xian, northern China, have been underway for the past 10 years, revealing an army of several thousand larger-than-life clay soldiers which, with the clay horses like the one that arrived in Stockholm this week, were stationed around the grave to guard the emperor in death.

Mr Jan Wirgin, the director of the museum, heaved a sigh of relief as the horse made it to the top of the stairs. "We asked the British to join us in putting on the exhibition in Europe but they told us they didn't have enough money," he said.

The museum had to find other European partners before Sweden and one of the country's leading banks would agree to fund it.

The eight clay soldiers and two horses, as well as other finds from the Xian grave are insured for up to £16m.



Smooth ride: an ancient Chinese clay horse negotiating a flight of stairs to the exhibition in Stockholm.

Mr Wirgin said he had visited the excavations in Xian several times, and described them as "one of the most exciting archaeological finds of our age."

The exhibits survived a difficult trip. The two horses, suspended in harnesses in foam rubber-lined crates, survived intact a violent touchdown in

Karachi, and a long lorry journey from Paris to Stockholm.

The exhibition, entitled "The emperor's army," opens in Stockholm on December 5, continuing until February 17 next, when the horses will again make the perilous journey on the moving staircase before embarking on a trip to Oslo.

Zapu rebels to die for kidnap of tourists

From Jan Raath, Harare

Two unrepentant guerrillas were sentenced to death yesterday for their part in the kidnap of six tourists in July 1982.

Gilbert Ngunwenya, aged 42, and Austin Mpofo, aged 25, ignored court proceedings to the end, asserted that the tourists were still alive, and repeated their demands for the release of Zapu detainees and return of Zapu property confiscated by the state.

As Mr Justice Sandura left to consider sentence with his two assessors, Ngunwenya raised a clenched fist and shouted: "Forward with the people's revolution until victory. Forward with the people who are fighting in the bush. And I say power to the people."

The judge returned to say he had found both men guilty. He sentenced them to death on six counts of abduction, which is an act of terrorism in Zimbabwe law and a capital offence.

Last week, Mpofo was sentenced to death for the murder of a policeman, five white men and their families in Matabeleland in early 1982.

The six tourists were two Britons, Mr James Greenwell, aged 21, of Liverpool; Mr Martin Hodgson, aged 38, of Peterborough; two Americans, Mr Brett Baldwin, aged 25, and Mr Kevin Ellis, aged 26, both of Seattle; and two Australians, Mr Tony Bajzeiz, aged 27, and Mr William Butler aged 33.

When the trial opened on Wednesday, a statement by Ngunwenya to police was read to the court. It said he was leader of a group of 19 guerrillas who stopped an overland adventure lorry about 50 miles north of Bulawayo on July 23.

The six tourists spent three months in Matabeleland North before they were allegedly taken to the site of an old Zapu (the military wing of Zimlibwabe's liberation war) base in Zambia.

There, the statement said, they were handed over to "some Soviet people" who were told "they must keep these six tourists for us till we receive our property and people who are arrested without reason."

The Soviet Embassy here said a report in *The Herald* newspaper was slanderous and that the "incoherent and groundless utterances of persons accused of anti-government activities have been deliberately twisted to give credibility to these absurd allegations. There was no Soviet connexion with the kidnap."

Indian state assembly dissolved

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The State Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, a Southern Indian State, has been dissolved on the recommendation of Mr N. T. Rama Rao the Chief Minister. This is the second time to do so: the first was in 1974.

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly has completed only 22½ months out of its term of five years but the state has gone through a traumatic experience: in August Mr Rama Rao was dismissed and a Congress (I) - supported Chief Minister, Mr Bhaskar Rao, was installed.

Protests throughout the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, forced Mrs Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister, to reappoint Mr Rama Rao as Chief Minister. Mr Rao, who has 160 MPs in a House of 205, has been under pressure since his return to power. He has expanded his Cabinet three times, raising the number of ministers to 42 but apparently this did not mollify most of his supporters.

Mr Rao has already entered into an alliance with the opposition parties for the Lok Sabha election, by giving them eight out of 42 seats.

RAF extends Ethiopia famine relief airlift

From Thomson Prentice, Addis Ababa

The RAF famine relief airlift has extended its operations in Ethiopia by flying food supplies to the north-west of the country. The first supplies were flown yesterday to Gondar, 40 miles north of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, and 350 miles from the capital.

The area is usually one of the more fertile stretches of the country but has also been badly affected by drought. The two Hercules transport planes are continuing to take huge daily cargoes of grain, blankets and other supplies to the aid of scores of thousands of starving peasants at feeding centres in Mekele and Aksum in the northern highlands, from the port of Assab.

By the middle of this week they had airlifted more than

1,200 tons of supplies, mostly grain. The 1,000-ton mark was achieved on November 18, the fourteenth day of the exercise, codenamed Operation Bushel.

Yesterday one of the four crews was flying home to RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire on leave. The airman were reluctant to be detached from the operation. In recent days some of them have had their first contact with famine victims at Kekele, where as many as 50 people a day are dying despite all efforts by relief organizations.

The airman handed out their personal rations of fruit and sweets to some of the children at Mekele. One said "It's only a gesture but our only way of showing our affection and concern for these lovely people."

Water crisis hits Zambia

From Alfred Sayila, Lusaka

Some Zambia areas face a critical water shortage which may force many industries to close.

The Department of Water Development says eastern, western, central and southern provinces are the hardest hit. Towns are without water for most of the time.

Small rivers have dried up, affecting the level in Luangwa, one of the biggest rivers in Zambia. Agriculture has suffered and there is a famine in some areas. Hundreds of people are starving but receiving relief from the World Food Programme.

President Kaunda last week decided to set up a national company to harness and distribute water in Zambia.

Water shortages are also the result of poor planning, increased consumption and mechanical breakdown. Another area where there are shortages is sugar.

While the country makes plenty to consume locally or to export, sugar shortages in some districts are a constant puzzle. According to the Zambia Sugar Company, local shortages are due to poor distribution and marketing.

Muldoon will fight to retain party leadership

From W F Reeves, Wellington

Sir Robert Muldoon, leader of New Zealand's Opposition, announced yesterday that he would defend his position in the National Party at a vote to be taken among his MPs on December 21.

After his defeat in the July elections, Sir Robert faced strong calls for his resignation. All he would say then was that he was unlikely to offer himself again for the leadership, but he has been sending out signals recently that he was thinking of fighting to stay on.

His reason for entering the contest, he explained yesterday, was because he felt none of the other four contenders was capable of getting rid of the Labour Government.

He admitted he did not have the numbers to retain his position but believed this would

change as National Party MPs took account of the support building for him. Asked if his action risked splitting the party, Sir Robert replied: "It is split already."

● ECONOMIC JOLT: The Government's hopes for a wage accord to underpin its economic recovery strategy were jolted yesterday when talks with employers and unions to set a guideline for a return to free wage bargaining broke up without agreement.

A rule-of-thumb figure was established of 4.5 per cent, and employers moved toward it. But the Federation of Labour and the state unions stood out for 11.2 per cent. Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, described the union claim as out of step with reality, fuel for inflation and a boost to unemployment.

Early elections threat recedes in Denmark

Copenhagen - The threat of a premature general election in Denmark receded yesterday after the opposition Social Democrats announced that they would not table a vote of no confidence in the centre-right Government over its foreign and defence policies (Christopher Pollett writes).

A political crisis arose earlier this week when the 27-month-old Conservative-led minority Government defied the ruling of a majority in Parliament and cast Denmark's vote with its NATO allies against a draft resolution in the United Nations, sponsored by East Germany, Cuba and Hungary, calling for a ban on first use of nuclear weapons.

A parliamentary debate on Danish defence has been called here for early next month.

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It's unlikely that the Prime Minister will be very interested in reading this.

Because right from the start the Government hasn't been interested in any objections to their proposals to abolish the GLC. Even from their own MPs.

As far as they're concerned, you can either like it or lump it. Which is why they went ahead and published the Abolition Bill yesterday.

Even though they now know that over 74%* of Londoners are opposed to it.

Not all of these Londoners favour the current administration at County Hall either.

But it's the one that Londoners voted for at the last GLC elections. And the one that Londoners could have just as easily voted out at the next elections.

That is, had the Government not scrapped them.

Quite simply, the people of London want the right to decide for themselves who runs their city.

It's a right they deserve. One which they've had for almost a hundred years and one which people have in every other capital city in the western world.

The Government has attempted to excuse itself by talking about devolution.

That is, giving more power to the Borough Councils.

But it's pure deceit.

The fact of the matter is, in terms of expenditure over two thirds of the GLC's responsibilities won't go to the Borough Councils at all.

They'll go to Whitehall quangos and joint boards which are not directly elected.

A system of administration that isn't just undemocratic but one which politicians on both sides predict will result in organisational chaos.

In the first year alone, it will cost London ratepayers an extra £65 million.

It's a blatant misuse of central Government power which we will continue to campaign against on behalf of Londoners.

The Houses of Parliament have yet to approve the Bill before it becomes law.

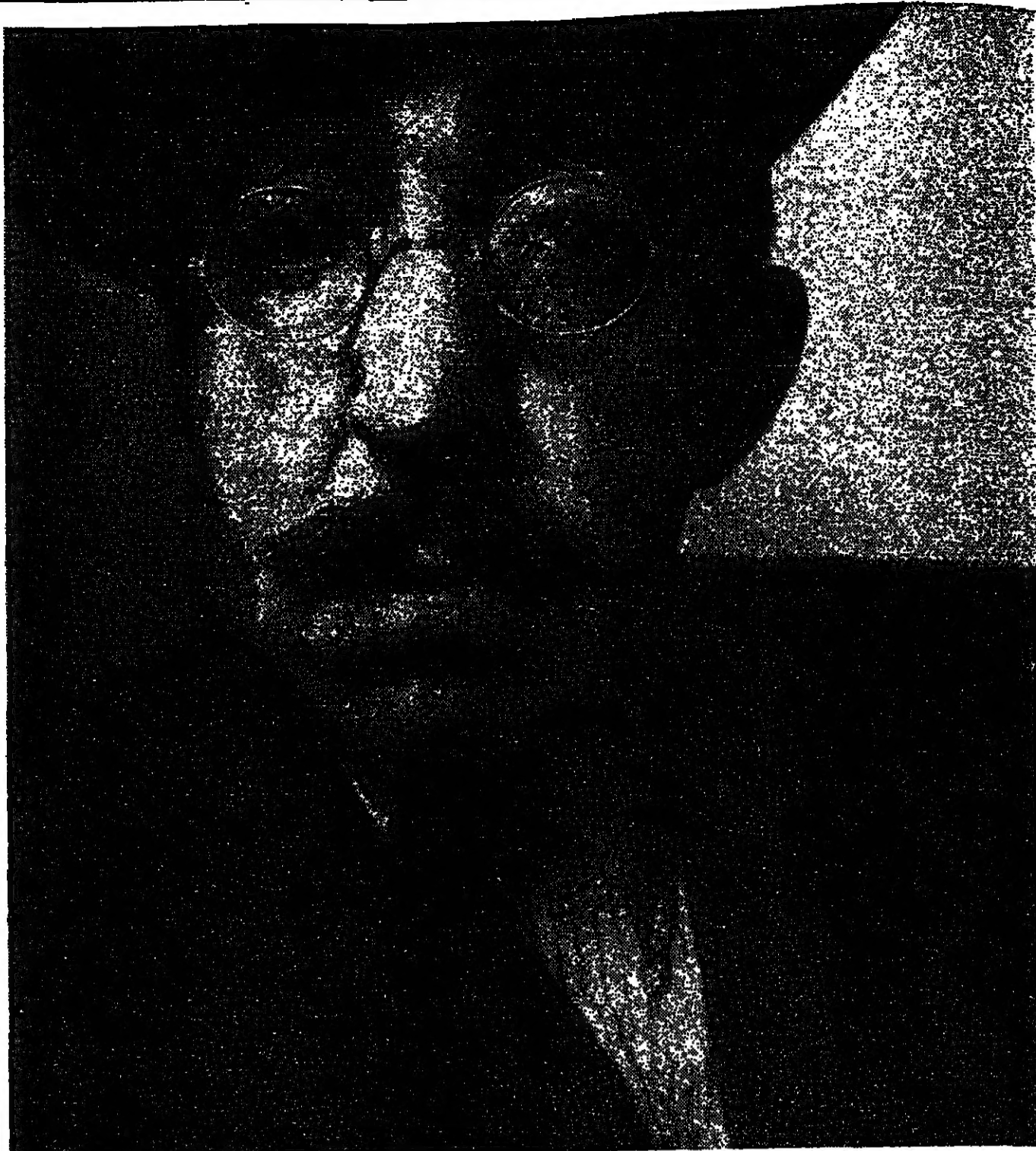
The Government has turned its back on the people of London.

We appeal to the House of Commons and the House of Lords not to.

SAY NO TO NO SAY.

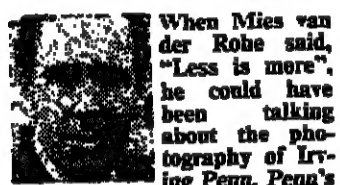
*HARRIS RESEARCH/THAMES TV SURVEY AMONGST 1027 ADULTS IN GREATER LONDON IN SEPTEMBER 1984.

SPECTRUM



Lord Snowdon pays tribute to photographer Irving Penn

ART OF EMOTION AND ELEGANCE



When Mies van der Rohe said, "Less is more", he could have been talking about the photography of Irving Penn. Penn's work is about complete control over light and environment and about an unvarnished economy of means where less really is more. Backgrounds hardly exist in a Penn photograph; when they do, they remain anonymous spaces which never threaten to overwhelm the subject. Lighting is simple and yet used to the best advantage.

Within the controlled situation things happen which make sense. The end results have a sophisticated elegance and a sensitive veracity.

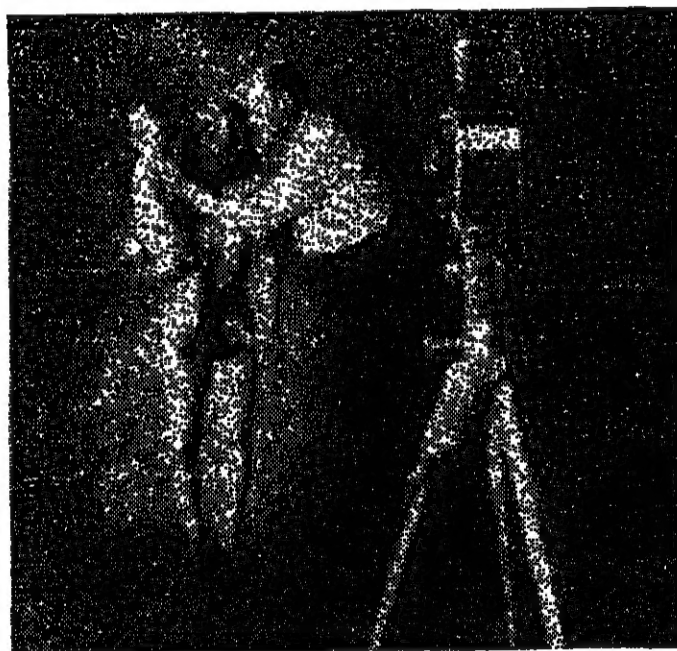
In his fashion photography Penn has resolutely refused to resort to gimmicks. Models, when they are used - Penn has at times photographed clothes on plastic mannequins - never jump up and down and scream at the camera. They are instead imbued with a simple elegance so that a kind of quietness permeates the photograph.

Penn is also a master of the still life and it is obvious from these photographs that, like Cartier-Bresson, he started life as a painter. His early career was spent making drawings for *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue*.

With portraiture Penn has been deeply influenced by nineteenth-century photographers but he has carried the genre a stage further with his unerring sense of volume and line.

His ability to reveal deep emotion in the eyes of his subjects - the most expressive part of any face - is extraordinary. And it is to the eyes that the viewer is always drawn, be it fashion or portraiture.

Penn is one of the great photographers of the twentieth century. His influence on himself and others has been tremendous not only as a photographer but as a great craftsman too, especially in perfecting his platinum prints which have a quite remarkable quality. His photographs are timeless, lasting and deeply serious.



Penn with Mud Man and Child, New Guinea 1970

When he made the new legendary photographs of groups of New Guinea tribesmen he took them out of their environment and froze them in time within the confines of his studio tent. Here he was able to exercise complete control of light and space and the photographs are as fresh today as when he made them.

Penn has always been under tremendous pressure to do cigarette advertising but he has always refused. He prefers instead to photograph discarded cigarette ends picked up in the street almost as classical still-life studies. The platinum prints, beautiful in themselves, show exactly how repulsive smoking really is.

I was with Penn only last week in New York. He is a quiet reserved sensitive man searching always for the truth in the most honest way possible. And although I have often said that I do not believe photography is one of the fine arts, I do believe that Irving Penn is a great artist.

● Miles Kingston will be back on Monday

'He uses light like Rembrandt'

Irving Penn was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1917. He studied design under Alexey Brodovitch at the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art, and began working as a designer and photographer in 1943, for *Vogue*, for which he still sometimes works today. His genius with the camera has embraced portraiture, fashion, still life and nude photography and he has photographed painters and writers without cheap tricks or flattery.

Penn uses light in a similar way to Rembrandt. Shadows are deep and highlights sing with an inner luminosity. His portraits are traditional and yet have an unremitting elegance. The tilt of a head, the angle of a hand, the oblique stance of a body are relentlessly used to create formal elegant structures.

He excels at group portraits, be it mud men from Asaro, New Guinea, or Hell's Angels from San Francisco. Penn's mastery of the complexities of an individual's space within a group is unsurpassed.



He has often taken his tent studio to remote regions of the globe such as Nepal and Dahomey, now Benin, to capture an elegance and style he sensed among the inhabitants. The photographs have become important anthropological expositions which, unlike the work of the German August Sander in the early part of the twentieth century, have always retained their warmth and humanity. The incongruities we see in these studies within the formal no-man's territory of the tent studio allow us to observe the Dahomey women's cicatrices as bodily adornments rather than disfigurement.

Such cicatrices are fashion no less than the necklaces and rich fabrics worn by western women.

Penn has explored the vagaries of fashion time and again between the covers of *Vogue*. Here, as nowhere else in his work, the balance between volume and line, silhouette and spatial illusion, is most apparent.

So too is the way he uses the bodies and hands of his models. Penn's colour-saturated photographs of deep frozen fruit or of a transparent drop of scent caught as it flies from the bottle demonstrate a more commercial side of his character; but his favoured medium is black and white where he can tease from the shadows great subtleties of grey.

Increasingly Penn has turned to the fine art print as an end in itself. Continually disappointed by inferior editorial reproductions, he now prefers to make fine crafted prints using the platinum-palladium process.

Now aged 67, he lives and works with his wife, the former model Lisa Fonssagrives, just outside New York.

A major retrospective of his work is touring America and Thames and Hudson is distributing in Britain a splendidly illustrated accompanying volume to coincide with this.

Michael Young

Irving Penn is published by Thames and Hudson on Monday, price £40.

S. J. Perelman, New York 1962, above

Tambul Warrior, New Guinea 1970, above left

Harlequin Dress, New York 1950, left

Tomorrow

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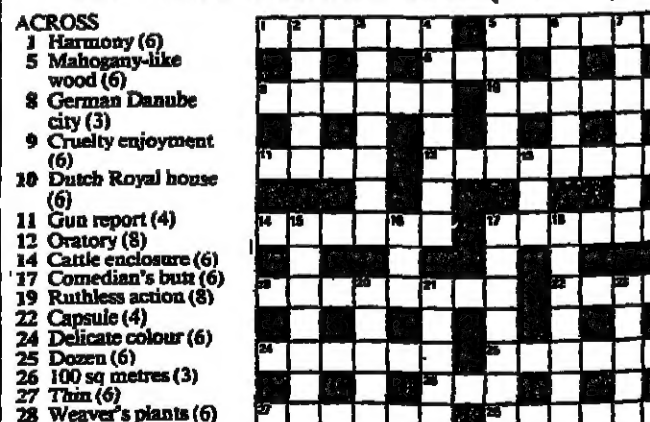
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FRIDAY PAGE

Why I am having a baby for my sister

As MPs today debate the Warnock report which recommends banning surrogate mothers, Nicholas Timmins talks to two women and a gynaecologist who believe this kind of pregnancy can be justified

Two and a half years ago, Glenda Eason, now aged 40, woke up after an operation to remove a growth at Hammersmith Hospital, London, to find her womb had been taken away.

After seven years of desperately trying to have a child through the rounds of the infertility clinics and more investigations than she can remember, she found that a surgical emergency had necessitated her uterus being removed. Her chances of having a child seemed to have gone for good.

"I can't tell you what it feels like when there's absolutely no hope", she says. "I had gone into hospital thinking that this was going to be the answer after years of disappointment."

"When I woke up and found what they had done, there was no hope. The chance was gone for good. It was devastating."

'We are just using Jacki as a suitcase really, an incubator to carry it'

Her sister Jacki, aged 35 and the mother of three children, came to see her, clutching a six-month-old baby in her arms, but the two sisters could not bring themselves to talk about what had happened for three days. Glenda underwent psychiatric treatment to cope with the depression that followed.

It was some weeks later that Jacki made the offer that gave Glenda and her husband Dennis, aged 46, the chance of a child - she would have a baby for them.

Under the recommendations of the Warnock report, being debated today in Parliament, what Jacki is doing - preparing to have a test-tube baby created from Glenda's egg and Dennis's sperm - would be banned.

The committee recommended a ban on surrogate mothers,

both commercial and non-commercial, which would render Mr Robert Winston, the gynaecologist who is providing the test-tube baby treatment, liable to prosecution.

The idea that Jacki might have a baby for Glenda occurred to the two women almost simultaneously.

"We had considered adoption", said Glenda. "But we are too old to be given the chance and there are too few babies." Dennis added: "Birth control and abortion mean there just aren't many children available and they always tend to go to younger parents."

Fostering, she says, would be fine if she already had a family. Without one, "I couldn't do that. I couldn't have a baby and then give it back after a few months or even years."

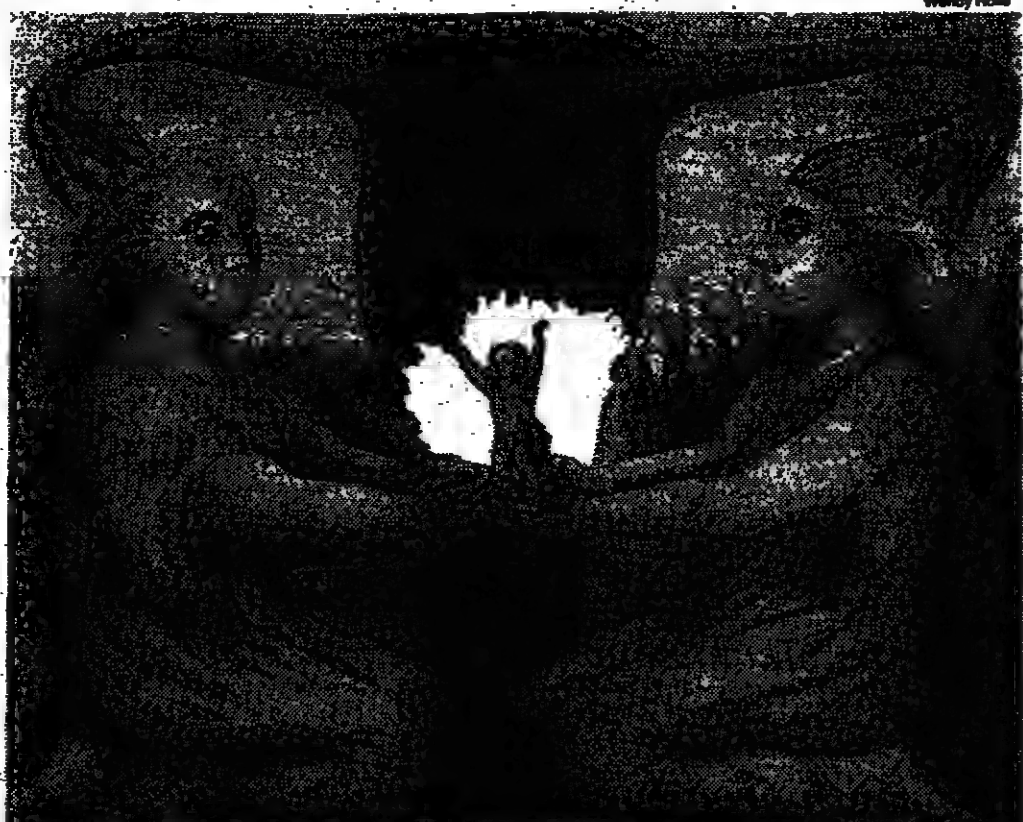
Glenda says she saw a newspaper report about a mother abroad having a baby for her daughter. "I started thinking about it, wondering if Jacki could have a baby for me. I doubt if I would ever have got round to asking her, but the very next day she just offered."

Jacki says: "She didn't need asking twice". Her motive, she says, was simply that she was very close to her sister and had seen what she had gone through.

"It seemed that every time Glenda went into hospital for treatment I was either heavily pregnant or had a baby in my arms."

"I can normally have babies so easily and when a member of your family can't, it makes you feel a little bit guilty. I've been so lucky. I've got three healthy kids. She's been so unlucky."

Their original idea was that Jacki would have a baby by artificial insemination, using Dennis's sperm and her egg. But they realized that the test-tube technique could give Glenda and Dennis a child that genetically was their own - created from Glenda's egg and Dennis's sperm in the laboratory.



Wendy Halls

'We feared back-door agencies'

Whether to ban all forms of surrogate motherhood was one of the most difficult issues with which the Warnock Committee tackled. In the end it came down 14-2 against.

Surrogate contracts should be enforceable, the committee said, and while parents involved in a surrogate arrangement should not be prosecuted, anyone who assisted in creating a surrogate pregnancy should be liable to criminal prosecution.

The minority report firmly opposed commercial surrogate agencies. But it suggested that adoption and fostering agencies should be allowed to arrange surrogate pregnancies.

This week Dame Mary Warnock, chairman of the committee, said: "I think the minority report on surrogate ought certainly to be given a better run for its money."

In cases where money did not change hands, she said, an adoption agency or gynaecologist arranged the pregnancy, "there is a great deal to be said for it".

In a case where a sister could use the test-tube baby technique to have a child that would be the offspring of the parents who would bring it up, "there is an even stronger case".

She said: "In the end we couldn't think of a way to draft legislation without leaving it open to people to put up their plates and start a little agency."

But Professor Malcolm McNaughton, now President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and a member of the Warnock Committee, said he had finally come to believe that surrogate, even by the test-tube approach, should not be allowed.

"That a woman should carry a child and hand it over by arrangement is unacceptable."

Where sisters were involved the problems could be even greater. "If they are close, she will be seeing the child, watching it grow up. The fact that she has had the baby but given it to her sister could lead to all sorts of possible problems which would not be in the interests of the child."

later, after lengthy discussion, he agreed to go ahead.

Jacki says: "I see no problem in handing the child over. I've got my family. I don't want any more children but I do enjoy being pregnant. There is no way that I would want to keep it. It's not mine, it belongs to Glenda and Dennis."

"I can't say how I would feel after carrying it for nine months if it was Dennis's sperm but my egg. I would go into that fully believing that I could quite happily hand it over after it was born. But I don't think anyone could be 100 per cent sure beforehand in those circumstances. But this way it's entirely different. It's their child. In a way it's got nothing to do with me at all."

Jacki says she has talked through the issues with her eldest son, aged 16, and he is happy about it. Her boyfriend wasn't sure at first, but when it was explained to him he was "very, very supportive".

If the treatment fails, Jacki says, she might be prepared to try having the baby by artificial

insemination with Dennis's sperm. "But I think we would have to sit down and do a lot more soul searching first."

There could be problems explaining that to the child later.

The two sisters are more divided on whether other forms of surrogate should be banned.

Jacki says: "I think it should be kept in the family circle. I would be against somebody paying thousands of pounds. No way could I do it for anyone else not even a close friend."

Glenda too has reservations about commercial surrogacy, but being childless can see the pressure and is loathe to condemn it.

What they and Dennis are clear about is that there is nothing wrong in what they hope to achieve - one sister carrying a child for another - an arrangement done for love not money. "In cases like ours where it can help a woman have a child who otherwise couldn't have one, where is the harm?" asks Glenda.

'It's their child. In a way it's got nothing to do with me at all'

Glenda says: "We are just using Jacki as a suitcase really, an incubator to carry it. At the end of the day it's our child."

When they put the idea to Robert Winston, they say, he told Glenda: "It was too soon after the operation. Months

Few parents would be brave enough to take their new-born baby to the other side of the world for a voyage of exploration in the South Seas. But Krov and Ann Menushin, both divers and film-makers, did just that.

Their three-month expedition was planned for the spring of 1983 when Aaron was four months old and their traditionally-rigged schooner could catch the trade winds. Aaron, who was still being breast fed, became the junior member of the crew of nine aboard *Ma Violante* for their trip from Vanuatu up to Papua New Guinea.

South Pacific Islanders are inherently suspicious of travellers and it was vital for the Menushins to establish mutual trust. Ironically it was Aaron's smiling face that was the instant ice-breaker.

Ann said: "The anthropologist we met out there was absolutely amazed and he wanted to rent Aaron this year. He had some very difficult tribes to meet and some very touchy situations and he felt he could do with him."

A serenity emerges in the film from the Malenean people which is in stark contrast to the cataclysmic forces which have shaped life in the region. The marine scenes have an hypnotic tranquility and it is Ann's figure which is seen gliding underwater.

Adventures of a cabin boy

Back on deck, however, her immediate concern was how much Aaron had drunk. "I was paranoid about dehydration and always carried a bottle for him. Mosquitoes and bugs were another great worry. I would not take him ashore where the mosquitoes were bad. But apart from one minor cold and ear trouble which was quickly sorted out, he was fine and in every respect things worked out well. In any large towns, we would buy fruit and vegetables and any tinned baby food and I even managed to buy disposable nappies which I would stash away in the boat. Fresh water on board was a priority. His first swimming lessons were far more exotic. They were in the South Pacific Ocean."

Now at home on dry land, in a converted farmhouse in St Remy de Provence, south of Avignon, Krov and Ann are already fired with enthusiasm for the next project - in the Indian Ocean, based in Sri Lanka. "We'll



The Menushin family in the South Seas. (above) and on dry land with Aaron, now aged two

concentrate on elephants on land and sperm whales and giant groupers underwater... for Aaron it'll be a nursery school trip to the zoo any day."

Part one of the four-part series *South Seas Voyage* will be broadcast this Sunday at 8.15 pm on Channel 4.

Rian Evans

MEDICAL BRIEFING

AIDS: the real risks

At a teaching hospital lunch given two months ago, all the doctors present agreed that the outbreak of AIDS had influenced decisions about recommending blood transfusions.

It is a basic medical principle not to cause unnecessary alarm, but the distinction between a reasonable warning and causing groundless fears about an AIDS epidemic will test judgment to its limits.

Heterosexuals as well as homosexuals are beginning to wonder if they are at risk. What are the dangers of catching AIDS from a bisexual partner? Can it be passed on by non-sexual means? Are active and passive homosexuals equally at

risk? Is it wise to share a bathroom or lavatory with a homosexual?

Doctors involved in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and in arranging blood transfusions, draw heavily on their experience with the hepatitis B virus. The epidemiology of this virus corresponds very closely to that of virus HTLV3, which is certainly associated with AIDS, if possibly not the sole cause.

Recent developments at the Royal Free Hospital, London, make it possible that within three to five years the dangers inherent in using extract of pooled blood will be a hazard of the past.

Professor Michael Adler, who works at the Middlesex Hospital and holds the only British chair funded for the study of sexually transmitted diseases, says the danger of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is still confined to well recognized groups: practising homosexuals, patients who need Factor 8 for haemophilia

treatment, drug addicts who use rusty needles, and prostitutes.

Professor Adler sees no reason for heterosexuals to change their lifestyle, but thinks homosexual men would be well advised to cut down on their number of partners. He does not feel that bisexuality is common enough to alter the way in which the disease may be established in Britain.

All doctors seem to agree that the antibody test, which has been devised to test patients' blood to see if they have been exposed to HTLV3 virus, is difficult to interpret. And evidence suggests that for every one person who is infected by HTLV3 virus, probably only one will develop AIDS.

Dr John Barbara, a virologist with the National Blood Transfusion Service who has recently written a book on microbiology and blood transfusions, said HTLV3 virus can be found in most body fluids, but is only in large quantities in blood and semen.

So the peck on the cheek for the party hostess from a homosexual guest will not matter, nor will the dirty glass or even the misdirected sneeze.

It seems that the semen of infectious bisexual men could be a danger to female partners. However, it would be surprising if a woman later developed AIDS with the virus in large enough quantities to be a risk to others. Fortunately, the vaginal mucosa seems less vulnerable to viruses than the anal or rectal wall, so women may prove less resistant to infection.

Accurate study is difficult, as the AIDS incubation period after infection is up to five years. But a survey of 1,000 blood donors found that not one of those surveyed had antibodies to HTLV3 virus, showing that the risk of an ordinary transfusion is very slight.

If the number of infected and infectious patients increases, straightforward transfusions might become a greater danger than they are today. The risk is

increased for haemophilic patients who receive Factor 8, as this is prepared from pooled blood.

Dr Barbara is optimistic because blood donors in Britain are volunteers motivated by a desire to help, not financial gain.

However, some homosexuals feel that it should be made possible for a donor to talk privately to a doctor about their donor's sexual preferences. This blood could then be used, if needed, for research rather than transfusion.

Microbiology in relation to blood transfusions, by Dr John Barbara, is published by Wrights, Bristol, price £7.50.

Television watchers will have seen how Mr. Arthur Scargill's blink rate varies with the level of anxiety each question causes.

But blinking is not the only embarrassment eyelids can cause; even more disturbing is involuntary forced closure of the eye, blepharospasm, which can cause temporary blindness.

Recent research at Moorfields Eye Hospital now offers hope to sufferers. Mr John Elston, a senior lecturer at Moorfields, has been injecting a very weak solution of Botulinum toxin, one of the most toxic substances known, into the orbicularis oculi, the muscle surrounding the eye. The muscle is partially paralysed and cannot be forced shut. Thirty-four patients have been treated; five suffered because the muscle became too lax, but treatment was successful in the other 29.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

in Nicaragua: "Well-wishers swarmed around the crews and the children got all excited clambering into the turrets and sliding down the gun barrels. One tank commander, looking ridiculous in his Siberian earflaps under the tropical sun, was quite unable to control them. But at 15 years old he was not much bigger than they were."

P. J. KAVANAGH

in the country: "This Saturday I have been for a walk in the low November sunshine and as I climbed a sloping field it became evident that every single blade of grass, every dried-up thistle, twig, fence-post, was connected, by spiders' threads, by gossamer. If you stooped sideways the whole surface of the field shone continuously, solid gold."

DIGBY ANDERSON

on cooking on a chime: "There you are, two meals for a family of four, and soup (made from head, bones and heart), gloves for everyone (and many happy evenings making them) and toys for the cat, all for the price of a frosty pizza. And me - I'm positively aglow with charity."

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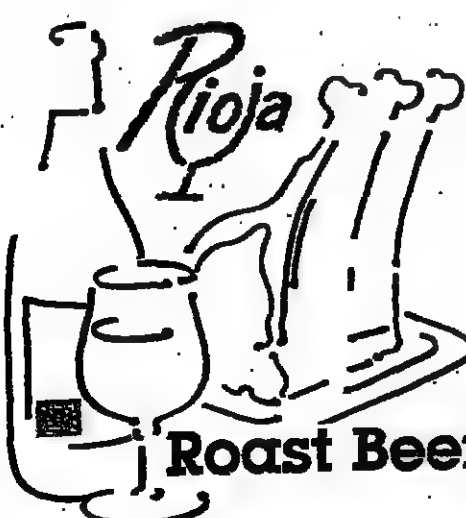
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THE TIMES DIARY

On the down beat

Tension is mounting among the four London orchestras over where the Arts Council's axe may fall. Neil Duncan - the "hit man" employed by the Arts Council to pick an orchestra to cut from the budget - has now delivered his confidential report and his recommendations have been initially accepted by the music panel. They have yet to be considered by the finance committee and the full Arts Council. Duncan's report is shrouded in secrecy but rumours are rife. Meanwhile the City of London - which jointly funds the London Symphony Orchestra - is to know what is going on by December 13 when it has to agree a new three-year deal with the LSO and the Barbican. The Arts Council has given off-the-record assurances of continued funding to the LSO, but there are fears that these could clash with the contents of the Duncan Report. Last summer Duncan said ominously: "The council doesn't want to postpone indefinitely coming to a decision."

Fighting words

Regional newspaper correspondents at the Commons received several calls yesterday from Labour MPs facing dissection by their constituency parties. They wanted to know if they had been part of the fight that brought the Commons to a standstill the night before.

Mole catch

The BBC current affairs flagship *Panorama* has failed in its bid to scoop the Clive Ponting story. The sought-after Ponting, the civil servant charged with leaking Belgrano documents, has agreed to cooperate solely with *World in View*. *Panorama*'s rival at Granada TV which had also landed the Sarah Tisdall exclusive, Ponting and his solicitor, Brian Raymond, will work unpaid on an hour-length special likely to be aired on the night the trial ends. Raymond explained they had preferred *Granada*'s film report approach to *Panorama*'s studio discussion format. His reasoning will, particularly, gall the *Panorama* team which fears that budget cuts will further curtail expensive outside filming.

Trading places

Neil Kinnock will need all the tact he can muster today when he goes to the Central Trades Union Council in Moscow. Not only will he have to skirt the subject of Arthur Scargill - seen in Russian as a Soviet-style workers' hero - but he will have to avoid mentioning Scargill's Soviet counterpart, Alexander Dielousov. When Dielousov announced a fuel embargo against Britain last month to support the miners, an embarrassed Kinnock had to issue a statement saying it was a dreadful mistake. The fate of Dielousov is not yet known.

Bad aim

A Kent miner returned to work for the first time yesterday. Within a couple of hours he received a call from his wife. The bad news, she said, was that the heavy mob had been round and put bricks through upstairs and downstairs windows. The good news, she added, was that the mob got the house next door.

BARRY FANTONI



KINNOCK IN RUSSIA

'Pity we don't have any striking miners for him not to support'

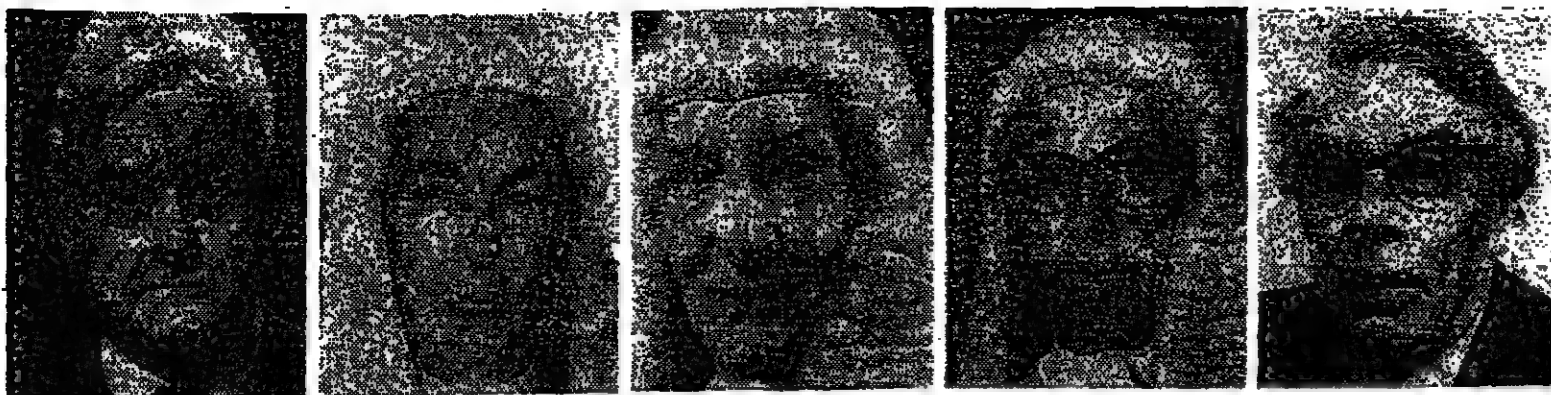
Loaded chamber

A security looking system and surveillance camera have just been installed at the entrance to the offices of Liverpool Council leader John Hamilton and his Militant-supporting deputy, Derek Hatton. This fortress mentality is hardly surprising. Last month Hatton was held hostage in his office for six hours by blacks protesting at the appointment of an outsider from Brent as £14,000-a-year head of the race relations unit. Last week the protesters wrecked a council meeting at which the appointee, 27-year-old Militant-sympathiser Sam Bond, was to be confirmed. Clearly the time has come for the council leaders - and their staff - to be protected from those they represent.

On target

My apologies to Jeffrey Archer for describing him as a former bankrupt. Following the crash of Aquablast, a Canadian company in which he had heavily invested, Archer spent seven years and three months paying off debts of £427,000. Not a penny more, as he would say, not a penny less. PHS

John Morris on a trend which threatens the independence of judges



Lord Hailsham, Lord Scarman, Lord Denning, Lord Donaldson and Baron Devlin: touched by the political battlefield

There to rule on the law - not to make it

Lord Scarman, not for the first time, has rendered signal service to the country in his contributions to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. When the Lords amendments were returned to be considered by the Commons, his first amendment on the admissibility of evidence was rejected, but his second, making racial discriminatory behaviour by the police a specific disciplinary offence, was accepted. His name, experience and standing were both played in aid and discounted in the debates, across party lines.

Lord Scarman is a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. The Government, which bowed to the will of the Lords on the racial amendment, supported it, although 10 days earlier it had put forward grounds for rejection. Ministers could hardly complain because the amendment originated in Lord Scarman's recommendations following the Brixton disturbances. They had appointed him.

The serious constitutional question is whether judges, however eminent, should descend into the political battlefield at all; and if they do, what the possible adverse effects on judicial independence could be. Save in the person of Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, we have maintained this independence from the executive and the legislature, at least since the evolution of our modern constitution.

Should judges be involved in extra-judicial duties at all? When they are invited by the executive to do its work, should they become further involved in the legislative process? On December 7 1973, a parliamentary question put by me elicited details of the involvement of High Court judges in non-judicial duties in the form of inquiries, commissions and reports in the previous 20 years. The maximum in

any one year was nine, the minimum one.

When I sought recently to update the information I was mildly surprised with the reply from Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, that it was not fully available or readily accessible up to 1982. However, he was able to state that in the years ending July 1983 and June 1984, 28 High Court judges were engaged in non-judicial duties.

Recent attacks on "Tory judges" are misplaced. There are no Tory judges. There are judges who are Tories, judges who are socialists, and judges whose views occupy the middle ground, and possibly some who are extremely apolitical. The attacks confuse the interpreters of the law with the laws which many of us, since they are particularly pernicious Tory laws. Should we not ensure that judges do not become political shillings?

Two recent inquiries have brought such concern to the forefront. The first was the unfortunate, though of course innocent, discussion on industrial relations between the Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson, and the newly appointed Permanent Secretary at the Department of Employment, Mr

Quinlan. The second was the suggestion by the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, that the views given by the president of the Family Division to the Commons on a disputed proposed clause in the Matrimonial Proceedings Bill might with advantage be circulated to anxious solicitors.

The first incident prompted the Lord Chancellor to remind ministers and judges, through the Prime Minister, that while he saw nothing wrong in exchanges of views between the judiciary and the executive, he should be informed.

When the Matrimonial Bill was returned to the floor of the House the Solicitor General, having been criticized, did not pursue his suggestion. Judicial views, however eminent, made *ex cathedra* on a hypothetical basis could only be of limited practical value.

This particular incident raises the question as to how it arose in the first place. The Commons adopted the procedure for this particular non-party but nevertheless controversial Bill of hearing evidence before a select committee from eminent and concerned witnesses. It turned out to be a valuable experience and the views of judges were very helpful. Nevertheless, if

the judiciary and the legislature, let alone the executive, are not to become incestuous in their relationship, great care must be exercised.

The extension of the judicial review's ambit over administrative decisions has brought judges closer to the field of controversial administrative decision-making. The courts have been careful to say that they are not substituting their own views for the decision-maker, although the decision is easily blurred.

It is, admittedly, difficult to maintain a *corde sanitaire* around our judges. The temptation for politicians to pass the buck is obvious. The temptation for judges, either by comment or action, to enter fields which would be better avoided, I believe, can be substantially resisted.

I do not believe our judges on the whole are fitted by training to carry on tasks which politicians find too difficult. They are eminently qualified to hear and assess evidence, but frequently more than evidence is involved in the basis for an administrative decision. The judicial development of the concept of judicial review has its own perils, particularly where the administrative acts of government are questioned.

The legislature should be careful in its invitations to judges to assist in the legislative process. Politicians soon enough will use their good name to buttress their own particular arguments. Lord Scarman may be *sui generis*, and we are grateful to him, but I am sure he, above all, would appreciate the danger of each of the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary putting his own sixpennyworth to solve some of tomorrow's problems. The author, Labour MP for Aberavon, is shadow Attorney General.

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Can Reagan rein in his hawks?

Nicholas Ashford assesses the president's chances of success in his second term



mates showing that the deficit for the current fiscal year will be a massive \$210bn, \$38bn more than projected last summer.

Reagan had hoped that a combination of vigorous economic growth, continued cuts on Federal spending and a war on government waste would bring the deficit to within manageable proportions - say \$100bn - by the time he steps down in 1988. But what can he do? He has already put social security and Medicare off limits and has vowed that taxes would be raised "over my dead body". The obvious alternative, strongly advocated by conservatives, is a further hacking away at domestic spending programmes.

Stockman and other administration "pragmatists" maintain that spending cuts alone will be not sufficient unless they are twice as large as they were during his first term. But such ruthless cutbacks would bring about confrontation with Congress, where Democrats will control the house and where the Senate's Republican majority has been sliced to 53 against the Democrats' 47.

Reagan has said he is in no mood for compromise and has told

colleagues he is "ready to hit the sawdust trail" to fight for his principles, even if it meant taking his case to the people over the heads of Congress.

Among Reagan's hardline advisers are Edwin Meese, a White House counsellor soon to become Attorney-General; Donald Regan, the treasury secretary, who is adamantly opposed to any tax increases; and Caspar Weinberger, the defence secretary, who is determined to fend off renewed attempts to nibble away at his budget.

Stockman, has warned however that if the new deficit estimates drive up interest rates and threaten to stall the economic recovery the president will have to consider unpopular measures, such as raising taxes.

James Baker, White House Chief of Staff and pragmatist-in-chief, is said to be against any tax increase at this stage, believing that the president should be seen to be a man of his word. Instead he favours a wide range of domestic spending cuts (excluding social security) coupled with some reduction in military spending.

Such a plan, he hopes, would be

supported by a "grand coalition" of House Republicans and Democrats. Baker has the most successful record within the Administration for dealing with Congress and the president would be most unwise to ignore his advice. Baker also believes the president can generate considerable goodwill in Congress if he shows genuine determination to negotiate with the Russians.

High-level contacts have already been made to start the process early in the New Year. The Americans have proposed a new forum which they refer to as an "umbrella". The Russians have expressed interest in the concept and have deliberately refrained from propaganda attacks on Reagan since his re-election.

Reagan's aides are far from unanimous, however, about how the US should proceed. The State Department, presided over by George Shultz and his key adviser, Richard Armitage, is much more disposed to making concessions than Weinberger.

For the moment the administration's foreign policy "moderates" are in the ascendancy. The hawks have undermined their case with the false alert about MIGs being delivered to Nicaragua. The hardliners, who include Weinberger, William Casey, the CIA Director, and Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United Nations representative, hoped the MIG scare would force the Administration into direct action against the Soviet-backed Sandinista government, a move that would have undermined efforts to improve relations with Moscow. As it turned out the US is continuing its public support for the "Contras" peace process.

Reagan is going to have to show the Russians he is firmly in control of foreign policy before he can persuade them to start talking seriously about reducing arms. They fear he could still revert to the "evil empire" rhetoric if he listens too closely to the hardliners. If that were to happen, the "window of opportunity" would quickly slam shut - and then he might never achieve the place in the history books to which he aspires.

Marcos bloodied but unbowed

Guns are part of politics in the Philippines, but the shooting of four prominent critics of President Ferdinand Marcos in the past two months has raised fears that there is a systematic campaign to eliminate troublesome adversaries. All four killings were in the southern island of Mindanao, a stronghold of hostility to the regime, and the most recent is regarded as particularly ominous. The victim was Cesar Climaco, long-serving mayor of Zamboanga, Mindanao's second city. Climaco had been waging a bitter war of words against Marcos since the imposition of martial law in 1972. Last May, Climaco won a seat in the national parliament and immediately stepped up his assault. He was especially critical of the conduct of government security forces on Mindanao, where "salvaging" the summary execution of civilians suspected of sympathizing with the region's communist guerrillas - is a common occurrence.

Mayor Climaco had often warned visitors that anyone, including himself, can be gunned down in this city, even in broad daylight. That was exactly what happened to him last week. A lone assassin stroled up and put a .45 bullet in his head in full view of horrified bystanders and

then slipped through a dragnet of some 200 troops and soldiers. Although Marcos was quick to denounce the murder of "a leader of exceptional courage, ability and prestige" and to order a high level investigation, opposition sources are convinced that he now feels secure enough to begin cracking down on prominent dissenters. The leader of the Philippine opposition, Salvador Laurel, has said in public that there is evidence of concerted action to kill those who have spoken out most forcefully against Marcos since his most dangerous opponent, Benigno Aquino, was shot at Manila airport 16 months ago.

Instead of keeping a prudently low profile while the Aquino affair, which implicated the regime's senior military commanders blowover, Marcos has demonstrated once again that he sees attack as the best means of defence. In rejecting the majority verdict of the commission investigating the murder in favour of the sole dissenting report he undermined the case against his chief of staff and most trusted aide, General Fabian Ver. Marcos surprised critics by agreeing that Ver should be shunted off on leave pending possible criminal charges. At the same time, however, he let it be known that he was "deeply

disturbed that on the basis of the so-called evidence, you have been so accused". If Ver is ever brought to trial, one observer concluded, the Philippine judge will be expected to remember that.

Veteran Marcos watchers also detect the president's touch behind a Manila newspaper advertisement in which 68 top military men affirmed their "unwavering support and loyalty" for Ver. Another of the capital's newspapers, owned by a family close to Marcos, then revealed that a sizeable clandestine organization had been discovered within the armed forces, calling itself "El Diabolo - Crime Busters", and promising its own lethal justice to "elusive criminals in our society". A clear warning that the military would not permit any drastic action by civilian courts against their leaders as a result of the Aquino verdict.

Mayor Climaco's habit of mocking Marcos personally in interviews with foreign journalists had made him extremely unpopular with the regime.

Nobody has yet been arrested for any of the recent murders on Mindanao, but people close to the victims, who included a civil rights lawyer and two journalists, are sure that they were "salvaged" in

carefully-planned ambushes. Mindanao human rights groups have abundant evidence linking the security forces with the torture and murder of a great many innocent civilians. The growing intensity of the guerrilla war there has trapped ordinary Filipinos between poorly trained government troops and the "sparrow squads" which the insurgents send out to assassinate soldiers, policemen and others judged to be enemies of the people.

For Marcos to attempt to restrain the army's "salvage" operations would mean confronting with the only institution that keeps him in power. It became clear during the Aquino investigation that the Philippine high command is controlled by a band of senior officers whose loyalty to each other comes far ahead of service to the nation. General Ver was at the very centre of this inner covey, and few believe that he will agree to forfeit his influence, even if he does eventually resign. "That El Diabolo rignarole," says a western diplomat in Manila, "is the military's way of telling Filipinos that the Aquino business hasn't changed anything, they're still calling the shots."

Philip Jacobson

Simon Jenkins

It takes too much to wango

The Civil Service minister, Lord Gowrie, is quango hunting again. Despite five years of Thatcherism it appears that 1,680 of these gentle herbivores - quasi-autonomous non-government organizations - are still grazing on the lower slopes of the public sector. Their cost is to be cut by a fearsome new weapon, "an improved system of defining targets and assessing achievements". All strength to its arm.

Further up the mountain, however, is a species well out of range of the noble lord's marksmanship. It roams in Foreign Office territory and is best described as a wango - a wholly autonomous non-government organization. I have counted roughly 80 of them, denoted by a code against their names in the supply estimates which means their subsidies are not investigated or controlled by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Nor does any annual underspending have to be returned. Not even the Secret Service enjoys such licence.

Wangos are mostly international organizations to which Britain contributes on a formula related to gross national product of treaty agreement. The biggest is the United Nations (contribution £20m), the most notorious at present is Unesco (£4m). There is a multitude of others, including the South Pacific Commission (£228,000), the Franco-British Council (£115,000) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (£26,000).

No good cause need go wanting if it can raise a percentage grant for a brass nameplate and a comfortable home in a salubrious world of capital. Conceived by Third World pressure out of western guilt, wangos have discovered the elixir of eternal life: subsidy without accountability. The cost in contributions by the British taxpayer is £106m this year, with a further £300m in soft loans and grants on the aid budget.

After up to 40 years of existence, these bodies inevitably find themselves falling over each other. The British taxpayer this year spent £250,000 on three separate organizations whose declared aim was to promote Mao, apart from £3.8m to the Nato secretariat itself. Aid wangos are the most eccentric: such as the International Potato Centre (£340,000), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (£2.7m), the World Fertility Survey (£112,000), the 1976 UN Fund "to promote industrialization in developing countries" (£350,000). The smallest must be the Trilateral Commission "to stimulate thinking on major issues and promote informal contacts between peoples of distinction" in Europe, America and Japan, on a British contribution of just £1,500. This would not fly one person of distinction from London or Tokyo.

Financial control in most of these organizations is by their own staff. The British exchequer has only two options, to pay up or incur the odium of getting out. Nor does it only have to pay the subscriptions. Many bodies require the physical presence of British diplomats, which does not come cheap. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, essentially a research institute, demands a full British ambassador and staff resident in Paris. The United Nations demands two, one in New York and another in Geneva. Every UN sub-committee has to be attended by a British diplomat.

If criticized, wangos defend themselves with a smokescreen of moral superiority. Most prefer to do "research into" or provide "centres for" or "programmes to promote" good causes rather than tackle any problem at first hand. Yet to attack the administration is to attack its purpose.

Many do excellent work. The soft loan packages committed by Britain through the World Bank or the International Development Agency are sensible ways of channelling resources to help poor nations help themselves. Yet who dare question money to the Fund for the Victims of Torture (£10,000) or the World Health Organization special programme in Human Reproduction (£1.8m) or the unpromising international institute for the study of child poverty? And how are these sums to be measured against the £59,000 to the Rome Centre for the Study of the Reservation and Restoration of Cultural Property?

Many such bodies were set up after the last war to herald an internationalist dawn. They were to be staffed by a new order of global philanthropists, whose asceticism would match their serious purpose. Like the pre-Reformation monastics, many have grown fat and idle. Few have notably their promise. Some, notably those connected with the UN, have sunk into parodies of themselves: corrupt, extravagant and ineffective lobbyists for sectional interests. They castigate their critics as irrelevant and immoral even as they rifle the international poor box.

As the recent log-rolling for Unesco has shown, any international institution can drain up reputable apologists on the mere strength of its title. Such organizations not only discredit themselves but the concept of multilateral charity as such.

Were they ordinary wangos the Government would subject them to audit, cut their grants or kill them dead. Were they national charities, the commissioners would disallow them. Yet as the Foreign Office searches for its £30m cut next year, it knows that a hand laid on its £100m of "multilateral contributions" will mean trouble.

Since most contributions are by formula, any genuine cut in spending entails withdrawal or at least the threat of withdrawal. To the Foreign Office, this instantly makes the Third World reluctant and our European allies irritated, reduces our international standing, and jeopardizes our long-term interests. All should be avoided, it says. To save just a few million pounds would mean a sequence of decisions doubtless involving the Cabinet, Parliament and a barrage of moral outrage, however hypocritical. Why not leave the sleeping dogs in their gilded kennels?

The answer is that Unesco has already precipitated a crisis of faith in such agencies as an effective conduit for world charity. Many have wholly outlived their usefulness and should be wound up.

The Foreign Office bewails the difficulty of stimulating public debate on foreign affairs. By announcing its intention to review every single grant to every multilateral organization it would galvanize such a debate, and return some respectability to international philanthropy.

The author is political editor of The Economist.

Philip Howard

Fantasia in Planasia

I cannot see the problem about what books to take to that mercifully imaginary desert island. You have to consider the matter for only a moment to see the obvious answer. No: the serious problem, after contriving a method of keeping the sand out of one's contact lenses at night (would coconut milk do as a wetting solution?), is what 10 operas on gramophone records to take with one in exile, to Planasia I bet it is. Discs, not tapes, since it is easier to switch back immediately to *Vorrei, e non vorrei* or whatever other duettino or aria you cannot bear to be over.

I came to opera late, never having been taken as a child. I sing like a frog. When Cheam School was singing *The Lady of Shalott* on radio for the Christmas concert (rescued for "Out flew the web and floated wide"), I was the boy given a yellow card and put in charge of pulling the curtains. I think that the plots of most operas are silly, especially the plot of *The Magic Flute* with that pernicious balderdash about Freemasonry; but for Tannoy's sake do not tell B. Levin, or he will try again to elucidate for me the inner meaning of that misty mythology of the Nibelung Saga.

I think that most Verdi is much improved by being subbed down to keep the songs and omit the hysterical recitative; but for Rigoletto's sake, do not tell the Arts Editor, or he will do a fortissimo *maledizione*. I seldom go to the opera, though I enjoy it greatly when I do. I play it on records all the time, especially when typing. I will be seen that as opera buff, I am a beginner, or slob.

One's choice of the top 10 is necessarily limited by what one has seen and heard; and by subjective factors such as with whom one went, and whether a good time was had by all. The list is provisional, and constantly changing.

For my Planasia, I have to take *Carmen* and *Tosca* for old times' sake. They were the first long-playing records I bought, the latter encouraged by an enthusiastic

Italian beak. They are pretty crackly now, but I do not suppose we are going to fuss overnicely about quality of reproduction, especially since in the absence of electricity we are going to have to play them on a wind-up grammo. If we have room for *Turandot* and *La Bohème* are strong candidates.

At this stage Mozart barges in and bogs the turntable. We must have, must we not, boys and girls, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, that daff old masonic *Magic Flute*, and *Così fan tutte*, with the title that translates so unsatisfactorily into English? I bleed for *Seraglio* and *Idomeneo*. I have never heard *La Clemenza di Tito*. (Shame, Howard). But we have to leave room for *Fidelio*. I am jolly well having *Semle* in there, even if you do not count it as quite a proper opera.

That makes eight. From Wagner I am taking *Die Meistersinger*. If you let me count *The Ring* as a single opera, I have to take it on grounds of volume, in every sense of the word. Though that leaves no room for Verdi. Tough, Giuseppe, you may say; but I think we should try to squeeze one in.

I suppose it has to be *Rigoletto*. If so, I regret to have to tell you, chums, that I am having the ENO version set among mafiosi on the New York waterfront, with what sounds like Marlon Brando singing several parts. But I worry about *Otello*, even though the plot and words grotesquely oversimplify Iago's motivation. I worry about *Falsità*.

That makes 10. But hang on there; hold everything. We have left no room for *Der Rosenkavalier*. And I am not going to be marooned with the bloody seagulls without that. I can tell you. Apollo knows what we are going to leave out to make room in the bed for the romantic little chap. You will have to excuse me now, while I put it on, to apologize for having forgotten it till the end. Do you mind not saying "Good grief, what about...?" until it is finished.



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IN THE BEGINNING

The level tone and rational procedures of the Warnock committee's report on the ways in which science now supplements sexual intercourse as the standard technique of human reproduction had the immediate effect of stilling a rather feverish debate. It was widely, though not universally, thought that the committee had got it about right.

Here is an area of therapy and research primarily addressed to infertility. The therapeutic objectives are unquestionably humane. Some of the techniques employed raise acute questions of moral and social acceptability. It is a fast-moving sector of medical science, for it is responsive to the pleas of procreative deprivation, exciting in a pioneering sort of way, capable of attracting money, a satisfying pitch for fundamental research, and it leads, as likely as not, to conferment on the human race of new powers of self-determination in what might be called the veterinary or stockbreeding dimensions of human procreation.

The regulatory framework proposed by Warnock for the services, techniques and researches surrounding infertility, and involving the manipulation of human gametes and embryos, is the appropriate one surely: some initial legislation to catch up with present or imminent abuses, and then a statutory body of continuing existence to license, regulate, supervise and monitor, also to keep the public informed and to advise the government on legislative requirements as they arise.

When the Government formulates its proposals next year it should have no difficulty in adopting that framework, though great care will be needed to get the responsibilities and composition of the licensing body right - to make it knowledgeable enough to be effective without putting it into the pocket of the professionals.

The Government is now at the stage of gathering opinions about Warnock. The House of Lords debated the report at the end of last month and the Commons has its turn today. It was evident from the Lords' debate that there is at least one matter on which Warnock has not established a consensus. This is the use of human embryos for the purposes of research.

It is the question that gave the committee most trouble and on which it was most divided. The

majority came to the conclusion that embryos at large not destined for implantation can legitimately be experimented upon up to 14 days after fertilization, and that it is also legitimate to create embryos *in vitro* expressly for that purpose (provided the experimentation is directed to a commendable end). Eighteen out of twenty-six peers who spoke in the debate recoiled from either the second or both of those propositions.

Moral judgment about the use of human embryos for therapeutic experimentation depends on how the embryo is regarded. Is it something in which a human life has begun and is present, a person in potency, or is it simply a collection of cells which, unless it implants in a human uterine environment, has no potential for development? (words used, though not adopted, in the Warnock report?)

The compromise achieved by the majority that "the embryo of the human species ought to have a special status" and some protection in law, but that the protection falls below the superior claims of research and its utility for advances in treatment and medical knowledge, is not an ethically convincing stance.

What it grants, it in the same breath takes away. It is embarrassingly (in the context) reminiscent of the kitchen maid's excuse for her pregnancy - "only a little one". It is particularly vulnerable to erosion of its 14-day rule, there being no evident reason that a relevant change in the process of development occurs around that moment, or at any moment until the emergence of the central nervous system, at which point an awareness of pain or something akin to it becomes a possibility and utilitarian ethics, with which everyone feels at home to some extent, come to the rescue.

It was not however the function of the Warnock committee to identify and occupy the most secure moral position available. Its function was to find a moral basis on which to found public policy in a contentious corner of medical practice and research for use in a somewhat ethically-chaotic society. For that the formula looks serviceable, resembling in some respects the position arrived at by another route in the cognate field of therapeutic abortion.

There is another aspect of the matter which gave the Warnock committee very little trouble and

on which, it might be thought, its advice is a bit perfunctory. This concerns the anonymity that shrouds the whole process of third-party procreation, and the proper recording of it.

It must be right that there should exist as full a genetic record as possible of these various transactions; and the commoner they become the stronger the case for a proper record. Access to the record raises secondary questions of some delicacy, but they do not affect the primary responsibility.

The Warnock committee proposes a central register of semen donors as a means of implementing its recommendation that no donor should achieve more than 10 live births. And it leaves to the licensing authority consideration of whether there ought to be a register of births attributable to the new techniques to facilitate follow-up studies. Nowhere does it lay on any public authority a duty to maintain a true and complete genetic record. At one point the committee goes so far as to recommend that falsification of the public genetic record as contained in the register of births should be sanctioned by law by permitting a husband who has consented to his wife's insemination from a donor to be registered as the child's father. Truth should not become a casualty of these procedures.

The committee treats anonymity as if it were self-evidently appropriate, adding only that "anonymity protects all parties not only from legal consequences but also from emotional difficulties". Anonymity may do that, but in a matter of this kind it also betokens secretiveness that might suggest a flavour of impropriety, and that could be an important factor in the adjustment of a "donated" child, adolescent or adult to the circumstances of his origin. Acceptability and openness are related.

Warnock wants a person on reaching the age of majority to know he is the product of gamete donation if he is, but of the anonymous man or woman who gave him life he is to get only "basic information about the donor's ethnic and genetic health". He is the offspring of a type: let him be content with that, is the verdict. Is a person not entitled to know, if ascertainable, the full particulars of his generation?

Irish cornerstone of neutrality

From Mr John MacInerney

Sir, The disturbing tenor of your mischievous leader (November 19) - its dishonest suggestion that only those parts of Ireland not controlled by Britain are used as bases for terrorist attacks, its sinister mention of "a legitimate British strategic interest" in ending Irish neutrality; its dark hints of a context "in which Ireland's historic difficulties [sic, Ireland?] may eventually disappear" - shows that you wish (or feign) to misunderstand certain realities.

You will scarcely need reminding that wartime Irish neutrality was of some political and military convenience to a Britain powerless during 1940-41 to prevent a German invasion of Ireland aimed at cutting off the Atlantic lifeline. But Ireland's interests - economic and political today, moral and cultural always - extend beyond (without, of course, ignoring) Britain and indeed, if your voice is representative, Britain's.

What you should now understand clearly is why a triple loyalty to Crown, Commonwealth and Nato can never answer to Ireland's true aspirations to realise by peaceful means her pluridimensional republican principles at home, the ideal of true unity in Europe, and the spirit of the UN Charter throughout the world.

Her neutrality doesn't "spring from its need to define a separate identity from Britain" (an enduring, and evolving, love-hate relationship requires not marriage but the degree of symbiosis fruitful as much as fruitful of unalterable physical continuity); it issues rather from the necessity of affirming a sense of solidarity with the desire, universal in ordinary individuals as in small nations, for freedom from famine and domination.

The sincerity of Irish statesmanship over the last quarter-century can indeed be impugned for failing too often "to maintain the physical capacity to carry out its obligations as a neutral"; these, however, are not military (except for UN peacekeeping duties) but moral: viz. the provision of whatever resources of expertise, vision or mediation Ireland can muster to help create a Europe with a world role to play in easing tensions between super-powers and in assisting the developing world to bridge the widening gap between North and South (in the Brandtian sense) that exacerbates global misery and geopolitical destabilisation - in a word, to close down the arsenals and open up the gunnies.

Ireland's special relationship with the Third World (grounded in sympathies springing from common historical experiences - and no colonised country ever forgets its history) equips her to fulfil a rôle requiring for its "practical validity" neither armed might nor financial clout but a moral pedigree that no former imperial power, and perhaps only Yugoslavia among "the more professional" (sic) neutrals of Europe, can lay unsuspected claim to.

"Far from being a symbol of nationalistic humbug which it is taboo to question or discuss, neutrality is the very cornerstone that Ireland must always build her domestic and foreign policy upon, underpinned by the rhetoric of what it's hard not to call bullbyology latter-day neo-imperialism."

Yours etc,
JOHN MACINERNEY,
51 Compton Road, SW19,
November 20.

Boroughs' spending

From Mr Melvin Mackie

Sir, Many of us can only applaud Mr Kenneth Baker's determination to restrict the growth in local government expenditure (feature, November 14). However, many are disappointed that nothing has been done to actually reform the system. On Mr Baker's own admission, the link between the elector, the ballot box and the rating system is running thin.

A system which allows many of the public to avoid, completely, contributing to local expenditure and when only one ratepayer in three actually pays in full can only lead to abuse. Indeed Mrs Thatcher herself and several of her Cabinet colleagues on several occasions have roundly condemned it.

Mr Baker would be well advised not only to curb expenditure but, to avoid a growing groundswell of discontent among ratepayers, actually carry out the Government's long-standing commitment to reform the whole system. MELVIN MACKIE, Chairman, MELBURN CENTRAL CONSERVATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 25 Wester Coates Avenue, Edinburgh, November 14.

Paper pounds

From Mr N. A. Parker

Sir, In all the controversy concerning the pound coin I have not seen it placed in its proper context - namely the pocket itself.

I put my hand in my pocket and what do I find? A fistful of coins dominated by the new, very much oversized, and all but worthless, 10p coin. Fortunately the ha'penny has dropped through the hole, but this new pound coin is indeed lost from sight behind the "florins".

Am I alone in thinking that what is required is a redesign of our coinage as a whole, to replace the present mish-mash of four disparate styles with some two-style system? If nothing else this would increase employment in the vending machine manufacturing industry.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. PARKER,
Plus Rheged,
North Curry,
Tarncliffe,
Somerset,
November 16.

Unwelcome burden of college costs

From Mr C. A. Giles

Sir, The current spate of increased charges for higher education was imposed without a murmur from parents. No wonder the Government has rushed in with a new additional set of charges for next September. These measures will be disastrous for higher education and one can only deduce that this is a subtle method of cutting university places, with parents taking the blame if they fail to pay up and shut up.

As a pensioner I feel particularly bitter about the whole affair. For forty-five years I paid into a scheme to obtain a pension which would give me a degree of comfort in my declining years. When my eldest son succeeded in obtaining a place at a university my wife and I were delighted, as neither of us had been able to afford such an education. We were determined that he should have this opportunity.

In his first year our contribution to his expenses was relatively low, my wife having taken part-time work with the express purpose of making sure we had some extra income.

In September we had the shock of the Government's first blow at parental support, our contribution under the new regulations increasing from £695 to £1,503. To meet the latest proposals next September we will have to find further £238 (The Times, November 17 - "Education costs").

This year my younger son is applying for a university place. How can we deny him the opportunity given to his older brother? Of course, I could go back to teaching, but no authority would employ a teacher over 68 years of age either full-time or part-time. An unemployed daughter has added to our financial problems.

I served during the last war and came through convinced that we would establish a better life for all, amongst which would be a dignified existence on retirement and educational opportunities for all without financial barriers. I did not envisage that in my retirement I would have to keep adult dependants.

Perhaps your better informed readers might suggest ways or probe regulations which would relieve pensioners of so great an obligation. Educationalists might delve into Education Acts to unearth regulations which guarantee young people free access to higher education.

Meanwhile, I hope the demonstrations being planned by the student union will be opened to some of us parents.

Yours sincerely,
C. A. GILES,
36 Bessy Grove,
South Woodford, E18,
November 16.

Falklands sovereignty

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Mr David Steel, in his article of November 16, has no right to say that "it has been declared British policy to secure a transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina".

Certainly British governments have had talks with Argentina on the subject. In each case, however, Parliament has refused to contemplate a handover of the islands unless this was the wish of the islanders. The islanders have invariably made it plain that they wished to remain British. Their experience of Argentine occupation, as I can attest from a recent visit, has only strengthened this resolve.

Mr Steel also implies that Britain should cede the islands to Argentina to strengthen that country's fragile democracy. Everyone must welcome Argentina's return to democracy, but this is hardly a cause for which we should sacrifice British interests, let alone British people.

Would it not be better, instead of giving in to Argentinian demands, to approach the problem more constructively?

The South Atlantic is potentially important strategically. If the Panama Canal were closed or the Suez Canal closed again, a major part of world trade would have to come through the South Atlantic. Its

Chatsworth drawings

From Mr Peter Hoos

Sir, The British Government, through its ministers and advisers, is treating the Duke of Devonshire, and the purchaser of the Chatsworth old master drawings, with contempt and lack of honour.

Mr John Rowlands, Keeper of Drawings at the British Museum, has played a dual rôle.

Firstly, together with colleagues, he rejects the drawings which the duke most generously offered to the British Museum for £5.5m. In the opinion of the museum experts there was an overvaluation of £250,000.

To their considerable surprise, and I trust embarrassment, the collection realised £21m at auction in July.

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art has delayed the export licences on a significant number of the drawings. Mr Rowlands, "wearing his other hat", is an adviser to the committee.

The museum made a massive misjudgment in their appreciation of the value of this collection, even after the benefits of a sale to a national institution had been taken into account. This is past history.

It is a considerable embarrassment to this country and the fine art world that this delay is causing consternation to the purchasers. Does it not also embarrass Mr Rowlands? I remain, yours truly,
PETER HOOS,
Mammot,
Rufland.

From Dr Jack L. Hoppe

Sir, With the proposed parental contribution to the tuition fees of students in higher education the parents enter an entirely new ballgame. But then so, in particular, do the universities.

It is one thing to be in some remote way answerable to the taxpayer for the quality of the tuition given to students, but quite a different matter to be in part answerable to their parents, who are directly contributing from their income to the tuition fees. Under such circumstances parents will be very much more concerned than hitherto to ensure that value for money is given and will be willing to accept nothing but the best tuition for their youngsters.

May we assume that Sir Keith is currently working on a scheme which will involve parents in the monitoring of such tuition?

Most are aware that there is room for considerable improvement in the teaching performance of a very large number of dons. Perhaps the new approach to tuition fees, paid by parents, and the logical consequence of this, could benefit future generations of university students.

Yours faithfully,
JACK L. HOPPE,
5 Hazlett Drive,
Maidstone,
Kent,
November 19.

From the Headmaster of Trinity School

Sir, Those of us who work in independent education have always argued, that parents should be allowed to spend their money as they wish. We respect the decisions of those parents who choose not to spend their money educating their children at our schools. It is not, however, the parent but the student who decides whether to enter further education.

We know that many parents do not provide their assessed contribution to maintenance, with some, but obviously temporary, hardship to the student. The incorporation of tuition fees in assessing parental contribution changes the picture in a potentially most damaging way.

What happens if the fees are not paid? Is the student to be sent down for the sins of his parents? I suggest that the Chancellor's desire, to save public money will lead to an unjustifiable pressure on many potential students.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WILSON, Headmaster,
Trinity School,
Stiley Park,
Croydon,
Surrey,
November 19.

waters and the adjacent Antarctic continent are also potentially valuable economically.

Britain happens to be present in the South Atlantic thanks to Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the Falklands, the Falkland Islands Dependencies and our claims on Antarctica.

Now that a full-size modern airport is near completion on Mount Pleasant (which incidentally will allow a major reduction in the present garrison and its cost) should we not consider inviting Chile, Argentina and other interested parties both riparian and non-riparian, to join us in using the British Falkland Islands under the British flag as a base for developing the resources of the South Atlantic and in due course Antarctica?

Sir Winston Churchill's oft-quoted phrase "in victory magnanimity" did not involve surrendering to German democracy what we had refused to Hitler. It did involve taking Germany by the hand and leading her into the wider concept of the European Community.

Should we not approach a defeated and bankrupt Argentina on similar lines and let her into the South Atlantic community in full part as one of its sovereign components?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
November 19.

Friends at the EEC

From Lord Chelwood

Sir, If the Founding Fathers had suffered from any of the prejudices with which Mr John D. Taylor, the Ulster Unionist MEP (November 17) is obviously riddled, the European Community would never have come into being. Down with the CDs, especially some of the Dutch, Italians and Southern Irish.

And down with an integrated Europe and even an elected Parliament.

It is hardly surprising that he finds so many of his colleagues so "unfriendly". So am I!

Yours sincerely,
CHELWOOD,
House of Lords,
November 19.

Sauce for the gander?

From Mr Keith Evans

Sir, Do my eyes deceive me or did the Conservatives use proportional representation when voting for the chairman of the 1922 committee (report, November 16)? And can it now be that they have the chairman that the numerical majority are content to have?

If only the electorate of the United Kingdom had such privileges! Or is it that what's good enough for the Conservative backbencher is too good for the country as a whole? Yours faithfully,
KEITH EVANS,
1 Grays Inn Square, WCI,
November 16.

Critical appraisal of obscenities

From Mr John Beyer

Sir, The good and faithful public servants of the Customs and Excise Department, in doing their honourable duty to curtail the flood of indecent, obscene and pornographic material into Britain, seem to have upset the libertarian lobby (letter, November 20).

From the bogus premise of unfair discrimination against what is described as "the lesbian and gay communities" they proceed to demand that the activities of Customs and Excise officers be restricted. This would, in turn, give the international pornographers a free hand, virtually, to import what they please, thus eliminating high production costs in this country.

It is comforting to note that the National Council for Civil Liberties favours the censorship of literature which is "obscene and without any redeeming social and literary value", although just how this is to be achieved remains a mystery, given the obvious and widely recognised shortcomings of the Obscene Publications Act.

To end any anomaly it would surely be far better to bring the Obscene Publications Act into line with the Customs and Excise Act so that the civil liberty of everyone not to be gratuitously offended can be practically every literary front may be the highest priority.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BEYER,
3 Dayling House,
Church Road,
Little Bentley,
Colchester,
Essex,
November 21.

Theatre at risk

From Mr Anthony Field

Sir, There always appears to be a list of worthy persons, such as "Lord Olivier and others" (November 17), who are prepared "to protest most vigorously against the Arts Council's decision" to do almost anything other than take on additional commitments for which it is not supplied with the required money.

Whether it is having to cut a fringe theatre company, a regional dance company, one of the London orchestras, the English Stage Company, a Scottish art gallery or a Welsh touring theatre, we are now paying the price for what earlier Arts Councils chose to do in the 1950s and 1960s (and I readily admit I was a contributor to it). Being Finance Director in those days, that is, they risked taking on just that extra piece of work which proved to be successive governments that the arts are a good investment.

Thus "Lord Olivier and others" should surely be protesting vigorously against any Government decisions which ignore the economic facts about the returns we obtain from our drama, music, film, dance and opera activities rather than rail against the Arts Council tearing its heart out about being forced to emancipate any of its work.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
127 Grosvenor Tower,
Barbican, EC2,
November 19.

Bishops' gambit

From the Reverend Canon Michael Mayne

Sir, As the person who (a year ago) invited Mr Gummer to give the address at the weekly university service in Great St Mary's, I should like to make two points.

1. Your front-page statement (November 19) that Mr Gummer "attacked the bishops for their views on the pit strike..." is inaccurate. Neither directly, nor by implication, neither in his press release, nor in the address as delivered, did he do so.

2. Mr Gummer spoke unequivocally about "the right and the duty of the Church to speak out on political matters." Like the prophets of old (the bishops) must challenge our economic aims and our political purposes...

While he went on to reflect upon the manner in which this should be done, it would be a pity if his clear assertion of the Church's legitimate rôle in these matters is overlooked. For it is this aspect of his address which can take the present debate a stage further.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAYNE,
Great St Mary's,
The University Church,
Cambridge,
November 21.

Red squirrels

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, You reported (October 26) that red squirrels in Fife "have reached pest proportions and are routinely killed".

These delightful creatures do no damage and therefore cannot be pests. Moreover they are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as a result of my amendment to the Bill, which was accepted by the Government) and it is therefore illegal to kill them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

Helping hand

From Mr Alan Lamboll

Sir, Matthew Arnold had the answer to Cordelia Lady Vane's problem (November 20) of the time-consuming move-along handshakes: "glance, and nod, and bustle by".

I am etc,
ALAN LAMBOLL,
Little Buckden,
Ipswich,
Norfolk,
November 20.

THE GCHQ CASE FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Cheltenham trade unions may not have profited from taking their case to the House of Lords, but they have done a good service to the general public. They have elicited a bunch of comprehensive and partially reassuring expositions of the present state of the law of judicial review of executive actions. It is a branch of the law that has come a long way in the last thirty years and is still developing. Some recent judgments, including the Court of Appeal in the present case, have given an impression of backsliding. The House of Lords has consolidated the ground gained and hinted at new lines of development.

It was argued for the Crown that the Prime Minister's order withdrawing trade union rights from the employees at GCHQ was outside the scope of judicial review for two reasons: because it was an exercise of prerogative power and because it rested on considerations of national security.

There is a weight of ancient and modern authority for the view that exercise of the royal prerogative is wholly outside the ambit of judicial review. This judgment sets aside that view. All the law lords agreed that if, as in this case, the prerogative flows through an order in council that is virtually indistinguishable from an order deriving from statute, the decision is reviewable just as if it rested on statutory power.

As to whether the same applies where the exercise of the prerogative is direct, some preferred not to decide the issue in this case, others opined that what counted was the subject matter of the decision not the source of the power to take it.

The voice of faith

From Mr Nicholas Langford

Sir, It is unjust of Clifford Longley (feature, November 5) to transfer the responsibility for the spiritual poverty of recent religious publications on to "contemporary culture" and language.

An artist's responsibility is expressive; he does not dictate belief, nor is his individual expression necessarily indicative of collective belief: the artist is not bound by "contemporary art forms"; nor is his object systematically to "demolish" faith. On the contrary, much modern art is intensely religious.

That opinion is in line with previous development and can probably be relied on to prevail.

Lord Roskill gave a list of the sort of prerogative powers that he thought were not susceptible to judicial review: treaty making, defence of the realm, prerogative of mercy, the grant of honours, dissolution of Parliament and the appointment of ministers. Being largely matters of policy they are not amenable to the judicial process. It is when individual interests are affected and legitimate expectations dashed that the courts will prick up their ears. There are three grounds, Lord Diplock said, on which an executive decision might be struck down - illegality (the minister has misdirected himself), irrationality (no reasonable person...), and procedural impropriety, and he opened the possibility of the courts entertaining a fourth ground, "the principle of proportionality", borrowed from our continental neighbours.

Had the GCHQ case fallen to be decided by reference to those criteria alone, the want of consultation before the order was made would have given the unions the judgment they sought. So far so good.

Enter national security. With a few brave exceptions (like Lord Atkin dissenting in a case of administrative detention under Regulation 18B in 1941 - "In this country, amid the clash of arms, the laws are not silent") judges have given an impression that when the words "national security" are pronounced by ministers the courts will fall silent. That is a serious matter for the citizen when the words are pronounced over an ever widening range of activities.

Language is tool and material for expression; it does not express of itself and therefore cannot be attributed with blame. The change in language since King James is insufficient by itself to account for the difference between the Authorized Version and the New English Bible. The first is literature, the second closer indeed to a "manual of care maintenance".

Optimism about the arts is possible: in painting and sculpture the nadir of minimalism has been passed, and current exhibitions, the Booker Prize entries and poets like Raine indicate a reaction at last against existentialist gloom. Con-

tinuous language change is healthy, and influences from America and the West Indies suggest an interesting future.

The future of the Church appears less assured: her clergy turn away from our spiritual needs towards the diversion of questionable politics. It is really no surprise that they then fail to find the means to express convincingly what they know in conscience should be expressed.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS LANGFORD,
1 Bell Hill Ridge,
Petersfield,
Hampshire,
November 5.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Joffé proves an action director of fine ambition

The Killing Fields (15)
Warner West End
Annie's Coming Out (PG)
Classics Chelsea, Tottenham Court Road
Not for Publication (15)
Classic Tottenham Court Road
A Christmas Story (PG)
Plaza

The ambition of *The Killing Fields* is undeniable and creditable. Its budget of £14.5m is not exceptional in Hollywood terms, but massive for a British production. Despite this big financial commitment, the film boldly essays a story with a political content, a style that is novel in this country where the cinemagoing public is notoriously apathetic about politics, particularly when they are seen as being other people's. The film moreover uses American money and addresses an American audience without evading the uncomfortable but essential issue of its subject.

That subject, as Bryan Appleby made clear in yesterday's interview with the director Roland Joffé, is Cambodia, the most devastated victim of the global war of ideologies. It is based on Sydney H. Schanberg's despatches to *The New York Times*, but particularly his 1980 article "The Death and Life of Dith Pran". Dith Pran was a *New York Times* stringer and Schanberg's assistant in Phnom Penh. As the Khmer Rouge converged on the city in April 1975, Schanberg arranged the evacuation to the U.S. of Pran's family. When the two men were captured by the Khmer Rouge, Pran succeeded in saving Schanberg and a group of other Western journalists.

Bruce Robinson's screenplay (his first to go into production) is admirable for its economy in exposition and dialogue. It does not however succeed in resolving the two major problems of the subject. One is to balance a strong personal story, vital to engage an audience in the broader theme, with the documentary element suffers most, and the audience may well be at a loss to understand the politics in general and in particular the origins and mad terrorism of the Khmer Rouge (though one sharp line speaks of it as an inevitable product of millions of dollars' worth of American bombs).



Emotional strength from personal experience: Haing S. Ngor in *The Killing Fields*

The personal story of the friendship of Schanberg and Pran presents the writer with a crucial structural problem: throughout the major part of the action the central figures are separated and without communication. The stronger of the two divorced elements of the narrative is the story of Dith Pran's privations in the land of the Khmer Rouge - thanks in large part to the direct and touching performance of Dr Haing S. Ngor, a non-professional whose personal experiences closely paralleled those of Dith Pran himself. Schanberg becomes a much less engaging figure. Crack war correspondents are rarely the most sympathetic of screen characters; and Sam Waterston is not the actor to compensate for the depth and warmth that are absent from the script.

The Killing Fields is certainly a remarkable feat of logistics for Joffé, making his first feature film after successive careers in theatre and television. With the collaboration of

an outstanding cinematographer, Chris Menges, his management of the vast crowds, exotic locations and broad panoramas marks him as an action director of the kind for whom the British cinema has rarely provided great scope.

He is at his best in virtuoso set-pieces like the tragicomic sequence of the evacuation of the American Embassy. Elsewhere his view often seems oddly calculated and detached from the tragedy: self-consciously picturesque images of carnage; decorous silhouettes against red skies; collages of horror, in which the blood, bodies, dead dogs, injured cows and crying children are all too carefully and apparently composed; over-emphatic musical effects like the choral accompanying the evacuation of Phnom Penh or John Lennon's "Imagine" over the final images of the victims of Cambodia. While the ambition is unbounded and exemplary, the achievement is uneven.

Annie's Coming Out, directed by

Gil Brealey, is also based on a true, heroic story, an Australian *cause célèbre* of a few years ago. Rosemary Crossley, a teacher in a Melbourne home for spastics, recognized that one of her most severely handicapped charges, far from being retarded, was a young woman of exceptional intelligence. Ironically the discovery - upsetting as it was to the status quo and hospital statistics - was not at all welcome to the hospital and health authorities, or even to "Annie's" family, and Crossley only succeeded in securing the young woman's discharge by taking her case to the courts. "Annie" subsequently took a degree, while Crossley wrote the book on which the film is based.

The final irony was that the original "Annie" was unable to play her own role in the film as intended, because the moment she left the home and underwent careful feeding, she suddenly and rapidly grew to adult physique.

In the end the role was played by

another spastic, Tina Arbondis; and her touching, spirited, humorous performance and magnificent, compelling eyes defy any feeling of unease in face of her handicaps. Crossley (renamed "Jessica Halloway") is played by one of the best and certainly the most beautiful of Australian actresses, Angela Punch McGregor. Far from being painful, this is as gripping, optimistic and energizing a story as any film currently on show.

Paul Bartel's follow-up to *Eating Raoul*, *Not for Publication*, is another joyful celebration of low comedy and bad taste which parodies wacky comedy of the Thirties, films *not* of the Forties and a good deal else between, with some sardonic incidental reflections on contemporary American morality. Nancy Allen plays a lady reporter on a New York scandal sheet who in her private life is a volunteer helper in the liberal mayor's campaign for re-election. Her investigations in company with a naive photographer (David Naughton, who reveals a charming line as a song-and-dance man) lead her into unpleasant discoveries about the intimate consensus of the city's establishment and underworld.

The film is slacker in structure than *Raoul* and has less strongly caricatured central performances; but there are some well-built sight-gags and Bartel's usual extravagant eccentricities, including a Nixonesque mayor (Laurence Luckinbill), a musical psychic (Alice Ghostley), a greedy gnat editor (Richard Paul) and an amorous dwarf (Cork Hubbert). Bartel himself makes a brief, telling appearance as a crippled television director.

A Christmas Story is a funny little film which is a great deal more attractive but likely to prove very much less commercial than *Porky's*, the last effort of its director, Bob Clark. It is a nostalgic, impressionistic recollection of a nine-year-old's Christmas in Indiana in the Forties. The child is played by Peter Billingsley, owlish, bespectacled, understandingly bewildered by the capricious grown-ups and alternately obsessed with problems with the local bully and the best tactics to ensure the algonk he covets for Christmas.

The boy's confused, well meaning parents are nicely played by Melinda Dillon and Darren McGavin; and Clark (who collaborated on the script with Jean Shepherd, author of the original novel *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*), accurately recaptures moments like the thrill of getting the Ovaltine Club membership through the post, and the disillusion of meeting a store Santa at close quarters.

David Robinson

Royal Concert

Handel
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Your Majesty: Master Kenyon, overwhelmed by his inadequacy and by the feebleness of his mild expressions to convey the effect of Wednesday evening's concert, has laid down his pen so that I, after the passage of ten score years since I recorded the first Commemoration of the incomparable Handel, might take it up once again.

I have heard tell, by those whose report I fear is less than trustworthy, that there are those who disdain in Your age to hear this pleasing, grand and sublime music with many choirs of voices and assemblages of instruments, shunning the thunder of the drums, the tread of the double basses, and the noise of the grand organ. Yet it may safely be pronounced that, from the progress which practical Music has made in this country since Handel's time, his work was never so well performed under his own direction as it was on Wednesday evening under the distinguished Sir David Willcocks and Mr Meredith Davies.

How aptly he wrote who asked a century ago: "Who ever heard of a choir too large for Handel? Not though nations should be formed into choirs and the genius of thunder were to swell the harmony till it shook the very spheres, would the true volary of Handel cry

"Hold, enough!" The aggregate of voices and instruments had here its full effect, and near a thousand musicians in the immortal choruses of *Israel in Egypt* and the *Messiah* made it difficult to determine which was the best, or had the grandest effect, from the very uncommon force and accuracy with which they were now performed.

And yet more notable than the glorious numbers of the performers was their extreme youth, for as I was informed they are but fledgling members of the newly formed colleges of music under your protection. How near, or how distant, the time may be, when the art of combining sounds shall be brought to its highest perfection by the natives of Great Britain, this is not the place to enquire; but progress has been sure.

He must have been not only a fastidious, but a very ignorant and insensible hearer who did not receive new and exquisite pleasure from the execution of Ariodante's sublime aria "Dopo notte" by Dame Janet Baker, and from the sober beauty of Miss Lott and Mr Roberts, though I believe I might prefer the noted talents of Mr Nicolai Gedda to be heard in our Italian opera houses.

I am, with the most profound Humility, Your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted Subject and Servant,

Dr Charles Burney

Invitation Concert

BBCSO/Buckley
BBC Maida Vale

Whatever one might think of American music (and on the evidence of the number of concerts we get of it, English promoters generally choose not to think of it at all), one cannot help admiring its self-confidence. Whether it be the product of a philosopher like John Cage, a so-called minimalist like Steve Reich or a complex master like Elliott Carter, it makes its statements with an openness that instantly disarms.

The same applies to more conservative composers than those, as demonstrated in this enterprising BBC Invitation Concert. The broadcast, when it happens, will be essential listening, not simply for the music but also for some scintillating playing by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, here directed by the young American Richard Buckley, who won a prize in the 1982 Rupert Foundation conducting competition. This was his first BBC engagement, and I shall be surprised if there are not more. But the dominating interest of the concert was the first British performance, 16 years after the event of John Corigliano's Piano Concerto. Corigliano has as yet achieved only limited recognition in this country. This exciting work,

written when he was 30, may say nothing particularly earth-shattering, but it certainly fulfils the composer's stated intention of communicating honestly and directly.

Though a jagged sort of piece, it owes much to Copland, both in its rhythmic vigour and in the spacious, easily recognizable themes that permeate the slower sections, particularly in the vast and varied first movement. The writing for orchestra is brilliant, technically far from easy; that for the soloist is awesomely challenging, though John McCabe dispatched the fistful of notes with quite astonishing assurance. The ferocious moto perpetuo finale was simply stunning.

If here Corigliano seems innocently unconcerned with the subtle gesture one suspects the same for much of Aaron Copland's Third Symphony, with the notable exception of its first movement. For there the composer seems to view the whole cosmos, relating what he sees through music of nobility and warmth. Compared with this the rest of the work, and especially the superficially exciting finale, is emotionally and intellectually a disappointment. Not so Ives's *Decoration Day*, whose distant, mystic nostalgia always threatens to burst into confused razzmatazz, and, of course, finally and ecstatically does.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

Diabolically perfect plotting

Phedra
Old Vic

Undaunted by the London response to *Summit Conference*, here is another courageous collaboration between Glenda Jackson and the Glasgow Citizens' directorate; this time involving a work worthy of their extraordinary powers.

No English-language production of Racine can hope for total success, but (as Christopher Fettes has lately shown) that is no reason for ducking the challenge altogether. And after the "imitations" of *Phedra* by

Robert Lowell and Tony Harrison, carefully reworked for the non-classical public, here is a point-blank assault on the thing itself. The result falls short of tragedy, and leaves you to discover for yourself what it means to be "la fille de Minos et de Pasiphaë". What remains intact is the most diabolically perfect piece of plotting since *Oedipus Rex*, a little and constantly absorbing narrative line, and material for stupendous exhibitions of heroic acting.

The translation is the work of Robert David MacDonald, who renders the inimitable alexandrines in a loose system of six-

syllable rhyming couplets, thus combining some melody with the freedom to switch from high formality to conversational and even comic exchange; a freedom wholly in key with other, and more spectacular, elements of the show.

Any expectation that Racine's tragedy is a well-bred affair, presenting torture in a style inoffensive to the King, is swept away by Philip Prowse's curtain which falls to the sound of an agonized shriek enfolding Tim Woodward's Hippolytus like a winding-sheet. This marvellous declaratory image of inescapability typifies the audio-visual side of the production. Mr Prowse, a master of grand theatrical gesture, surpasses himself in a sound score that brings Neptune on as a constantly fateful presence, and a vaulted neo-classical chamber displaying equestrian statuary that paves the way for a final *coup de théâtre* when the back wall descends as a battlefield ramp bearing a slaughtered



Glenda Jackson: a sense of burning energy

horse as a setting for Thérèse (Robert Edlison) to deliver the awesome tirade on the death of Hippolytus.

If effects of that kind exceed French conventions of propriety, so does the playing style, which ranges from delirious passion to malicious gossip and feline scheming. With the exception of Mr Woodward, who zealously preserves a blamelessly honourable profile, none of the characters bothers to keep up the pretence of acting nobly. When they do, as in the

scenes between Hippolytus and Georgina Hale's Aricie, it is for reasons of policy. Left alone with her confidante Ismene (Jane Bertish), the two of them revert into conspiratorial ironies that sometimes verge on the giggles.

What Glenda Jackson gives to the production as a whole is primarily a sense of burning energy. The idea of a mortally sick Phedra, dragging herself on like a wounded snake, vanishes from the sight of Miss Jackson, a barbarian princess in scarlet and gold, in the midst of the first of her heated disputes with Joyce Redman's Oenone. With periodic eruptions into direct ferocity and stony moments of hope, her home ground is sympathy-disdaining self-mockery which she sometimes pushes almost to the point of farce as the instrument of torture edges forward another notch.

There are some marvellous transitions in the performance, such as the concealed love declaration to Hippolytus where she retells the story of the labyrinth in a drugged voice, relishing the fantasy of leading him down to "the slaughter house" until she realizes she has gone too far.

Television

Distance lends no enchantment

"He cried all the way through," said the producer Jack LeVeen, who, having paid the Duke of Windsor \$1m, for collaborating in *The King's Story*, apparently preferred watching the Duke to the film.

It was Mr LeVeen, too, who remarked towards the end of last night's Forty Minutes, *Love in Exile*, "they had thousands of acquaintances but they really only had each other". I suppose they did.

Some of the acquaintances, like Mr LeVeen, got quite close. Messrs George Murphy, who ghosted a book on them, and Joe Bryan, who collaborated with the Duke on a book about his childhood (unhappy), were on hand with their reminiscences.

It could hardly be said that distance had lent enchantment. Mr Murphy thought the Windsors suffered a double defeat: he had wanted a love she had been unable to give; she had wanted a position she could not have. The Duchess he thought discontented.

"He had no right to quit it," said Mr Murphy, referring to the throne with the certainty that comes without difficulty when one has not had the dilemma. "In that respect he failed not only his family but himself." He had felt the Duke "a flawed man".

Mr Bryan saw the Duke as a man who liked to be told what to do, "and God, was he willing to do that". Mr Murphy concurred and recalled how the Duke, ousted from a room where the Duchess and he would shortly host a dinner party, had expressed the hope that he was not going to be sent to bed in tears. It occurred to me that, on this occasion, maybe Mr Murphy's sense of humour was flawed.

Bossed about or not, the Duke, said Lady Diana Mosley, the Windsors' neighbour in Paris, "thought her perfect". To an unscripted television question by Ed Murray, on the publication of the Duchess's *The Heart has its Reasons* in

1956, about whether they ever had occasion to discuss what might have been, the Duchess said that they had agreed never to talk about it and the Duke said he had no regrets.

The question, said the writer and narrator Michael Dean, "dropped like a grenade between them". They did look surprised but maybe because they thought Mr Murray guilty of a breach of agreement.

No doubt they would have been surprised to see, as we did, film clips of themselves interspersed with clips from *Snow White* and to hear the suggestion that the Duchess had been the model for that heroine.

This is a story that has no end, with the Royal Family bound in silence and the Duchess, now 88, bedridden and paralyzed. Chris Carter's programme was unfailingly watchable but it did make one wonder whether privacy was not our most precious possession.

Dennis Hackett

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cheaper loans to sustain flagging economies

The half-point cut in clearing bank base rates yesterday looked, on the face of it, a direct response to the overnight discount rate reduction in the United States. The direct link between the two events may have been rather weak, in fact, but they contained an important message.

A British Telecom-timed base rate reduction this week, barring disasters, had always looked on the cards. Tuesday's wobble in sterling, when it briefly dropped below \$1.22 and lost 0.8 on the sterling index, have put an untimely spanner in the works. Now, the authorities are as relaxed as it is possible to be about the exchange rate. Given sterling's initial pickup yesterday morning, following National Westminster's base rate announcement, that is no bad thing.

The Government's anxiety to reduce interest rates for economic growth reasons has been made apparent. The discount rate cut by the US Federal Reserve from 9 to 8½ per cent, the first reduction since December 1982, is the first positive sign of the re-elected Reagan Administration's concerns in the same area.

The point about Americans' relative immunity from high interest rates because of tax breaks is familiar. The logical follow-on from this is that interest rate reductions in the United States will have less economic impact than similar reductions would have in Britain. But when the Administration has no room for tax cuts, and when growth in the third quarter is down to an annualized 1.9 per cent and slowing, a blunt weapon is no better than no weapon at all. US prime rates, which should be down to 11 per cent within the next couple of weeks, may then be ready to go still lower.

The major drag on American growth at present is the huge trade deficit, which probably topped 3 per cent off growth in the third quarter. Britain has its own balance of payments problems, as indicated by the \$351 million trade deficit in October. However, the Treasury's confidence of a current account of zero for 1984 and the number of special factors contained in the October figures, suggest that major worries on the balance of payments can be postponed.

The downward path of interest rates in Britain will be a slow one. The significance of yesterday's reductions, taken in combination with the Fed's discount rate cut, is that for the first time in a while, governments on both sides of the Atlantic are pulling interest rates in the same direction and for the same reasons.

Prudential converted to Liffe's virtues

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), which was two years old last month, is not the strongest of markets but fears of infant mortality can now be set aside. Liffe will be with us for the foreseeable future (apart from domestic neglect, the main threat to its growth is an American monopoly in futures trading) and plans for its development, if they are brought to fruition, should ensure the exchange a permanent place in the spectrum of London markets.

As Mr Michael Jenkins, chief executive, has recently reminded me "Liffe provides trading instruments to enable corporate exposure to rising (or falling) interest and currency rates to be neutralized, to allow more confidence planning in spite of volatile money markets". Since May the shape of the FT-SE futures contract, Liffe has offered to equity portfolio managers, investors and issuers of shares a similar method for controlling their risks.

What the exchange now needs above all is more users and more volume, both of which would bring narrower price spreads for buyers and sellers.

Unfamiliarity, conservatism and sniffiness toward "gambling" are obstacles in Liffe's path. But there are encouragement too. The latest is the decision of the Prudential to use the exchange's facilities in pension fund management. Trustees especially are loath to accept Liffe's practical virtues as a means of enhancing portfolio performance and limiting risks.

when conventional market decisions seem unusually hazardous.

So far Liffe has attracted the enthusiastic interest of a few nationalised industry pension funds. The conversion of the Prudential might well encourage others to come in and provide the exchange with a timely boost, while it waits for the arrival next year of the building societies, for which a new short gilt contract will be fashioned, and the host of primary gilt-edged dealers in the post 1986 Stock Exchange.

Perks and private shareholders

It has been an up and down year for investors who like to spice their dividends with perks and concessions on the goods of companies in which they own shares. European Ferries, which was responsible more than any other company for promoting the popularity of shareholder concessions, finally decided that the 160,000 people attracted to its books, mainly in search of cheap cross-channel trips, were more of a liability than an asset. The trippers have been shunted into a preference share siding. But the idea has received a compensating boost from BT's telephone vouchers for the small shareholder temporarily though they are.

Seymour Pierce, the stockbroker firm, welcomes the BT innovation in the new 1984 edition of its guide to concessionary shareholder discounts. It sees it as an acknowledgement by the Government that perks "have a uniquely important contribution to make in encouraging new investors". It regrets the time limit.

The latest Seymour Pierce list numbers a hundred companies offering anything from 15 per cent off men's clothes to a £2 discount on a five-hour cruise on Lock Lomond. The appreciation of shareholder loyalty by more big companies means that concession-seeking small shareholders can now readily assemble a portfolio of a dozen blue chips, many of them among our most progressive big companies.

Not everyone will be pleased. As European Ferries discovered, accumulating a lot of small shareholders can be a costly administration nightmare. Trading in small lots of shares remains uneconomic, certainly until the age of electronic high street share dealing dawn.

Nor is that the only potential drawback of the market romantic's ideal of mass direct share ownership. As Bank of England director, Mr David Walker, reminded us in a recent speech in Rome, it was market forces - spreading risk and saving cost - that pushed small investors into unit trusts and the like. Moreover, modern experience suggests that small investors play even less of a role than the big City institutions in forcing changes on poor management before most of shareholders' money has been lost.

Clearly, it will take more than Government exhortation to encourage millions of ordinary people to own shares, let alone take an active role as shareholders. It will require a new culture. Finding out what small shareholders really want from the companies they invest in and giving it to them could play a big role in such a transformation, especially when they want the sort of individual concessions that are not available through pooled investment.

When many millions do on shares, if that ever comes to pass, it is a fair bet that the affairs of companies will attract much greater public interest, and small investors will become more aware of what is going on. Only then are they likely to take an active part, whether to resist takeovers, unseat management or, on a non-financial plain, tell their companies not to trade with the Soviet Union or South Africa, worry about the environment and so on.

Offering shareholders personal concessions seems as promising an avenue to spreading share ownership as, for instance, tax incentives. The privatization programme could play a bigger part in this. Not free tanks from the Royal Ordnance Factories perhaps, but as Seymour Pierce points out, cheap air fare for British Airways shareholders would be something desirable different.

Dee postpones Booker bid after £180m stores deal

By Philip Robinson

Dee Corporation, the food wholesaling and retailing group, yesterday announced that it is buying the 380-shop International Stores chain from BAT Industries for £180 million and postponing any renewed takeover bid for Booker McConnell.

Its initial takeover attempt for Booker is still being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Dee is placing 113 million new shares with institutions at 160p each to raise just over £181 million for the deal. The group will receive £30 million cash from BAT as part of the International Stores deal.

Mr Alec Monk, the Dee chairman, approached BAT about three weeks ago with a proposal to purchase International, which BAT bought as a loss maker 12 years ago and only started to make it pay in the last few years.

At the end of last December, International had tax losses of £30 million and as a result of this year's capital expenditure, losses to be carried forward by the end of 1984 are expected to be more than £35 million. BAT has promised that pretax profits for the stores in the year to December 29 will be at least £11.1 million.

Dee's own half-time profits showed pretax profits up by almost 40 per cent to £17.1 million in the 28 weeks to November 10 on a turnover ahead almost a quarter to £852.4 million. Dee's half-time dividend is up 28.6 per cent to 2.25p.

The International deal will be subject to Dee shareholders' approval at a meeting on December 19, and the Office of Fair Trading confirmed yesterday that it was looking at the deal under the assets section of the Fair Trading Act.

Dee's switch from wanting the three wholesale and retail operations of Booker to an exclusively retail deal with BAT came just a month before the Monopolies Commission was

convinced that the transaction would be carried forward by the end of 1984 are expected to be more than £35 million. BAT has promised that pretax profits for the stores in the year to December 29 will be at least £11.1 million.

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Alec Monk: "more a retail man than anything else"

due to complete its report into the £230 million bid Dee made for Booker last June.

Mr Monk said in a statement that in view of the proposed acquisition of International, "the board's present view is that it is unlikely that the bid for Booker McConnell would be renewed immediately after a favourable decision was announced by the Secretary of State."

Dee believes that the transaction strength of the dollar will boost Booker's earnings this year.

Mr Michael Caine, chairman of Booker said: "This is a clear confirmation that he (Mr Monk) is much more a retail man than anything else. To now go for the wholesale end of the market could produce a potential conflict of interest."

The combined operations of International Stores and Dee Gateway supermarkets will have an annual turnover of £1,600 million and 7.2 per cent of the British grocery trade.

For BAT the disposal is part of yet another strategy this time to concentrate the group in four areas, tobacco, specialist non-food retailing, paper and pulp and financial services.

BAT shares ended down 1p at 275p last night having been up 12p during the day. Dee's price added 5p to close at 180p, while Booker McConnell dropped 23p to 204p.

Market report page 19

No decision on SE plans

Stock Exchange members will be presented with proposals in January on changes in membership rules, standards of competence, new rules on financial supervision and conflicts of interest and the future of the Exchange compensation fund. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange Council, says this in his half-yearly report to members. But no decisions have been made on any of these matters.

There will then be a consultation period, during which Sir Nicholas will hold another series of meetings with members in London and the provinces. Investigations were started into 27 instances of possible insider-trading during the half-year. The results of nine were sent to the Department of Trade and Industry for further investigation.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1188.2 down 8.6 (high: 1170.0; low: 1168.2)
FT Index: 908.8 down 8.8
FT 100: 82.91 down 0.29
FT All Share: 550.04 down 2.85
Bargains: 19,228
Overstated: 1,041 Leaders
Orders: 105.02 down 0.18
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: closed
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,207.70 down 42.09
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1087.81 up 3.46

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DM 8.6975 down 0.0075
Fr 11.3020 down 0.0505
Yen 298.87 down 1.63
Dollar Index 140.2 down 0.7
£/\$ 0.0090 down 0.0085
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2390
Dollar DM 2.9890
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.803127
SDR 20.81422

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9% - 9%
Finance houses base rate 11.00
Discount market loans week fixed 9% - 9%
3 month interbank 9% - 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/4% - 9 1/4%
3 month DM 5 1/4% - 5 1/4%
3 month FF 11 1/4% - 11 1/4%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.75
Fed funds 9%
Treasury bill bond 10 1/4% - 10 1/4%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6, 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$342.55 pm \$341.95
close \$341.75 - \$342.25 (\$278.25 - 278.75)
New York (latest): \$342.50
Krugerrand (per coin): \$351.50 - \$353.00 (\$298.25 - 297.50)
Sovereigns (new): \$80.50 - \$81.50 (\$65.50 - 66.50)
*Excludes VAT

Takeover Panel criticizes BPCC

By Jeremy Warner

The City Takeover Panel is dissatisfied with the failure of Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation to find a paper alternative to its £44 million cash takeover bid for John Waddington, the printing, packaging and games group.

BPCC said when it first launched its offer last month, that it would be making some form of convertible share bid in addition to its cash offer of 500p a share.

However, when it posted its formal offer document yesterday, BPCC said that changes in market conditions since the bid was announced meant that the intended convertible share offer "would be unattractive."

However, the Panel gave its consent to the withdrawal of the paper alternative.

Mr Peter Fraser, a member of the Panel executive said: "This is a rather unsatisfactory and unexciting outcome, but since the Panel did not consent to a value for the convertible offer, the withdrawal seems legitimate."

The deadline for accepting the 500p a share cash bid has been set as early as Thursday, December 13. Under City takeover rules this only gives Mr Maxwell another week to decide whether to raise his offer. After that the rules will prevent him making further changes.

It looks as though BPCC will have to raise the offer if it is to stand any chance of success. With Waddington shares trading in the stock market at 555p.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington's chairman said: "We are entirely confident that we will keep our independence. We will shortly be releasing our half-year results to the end of September and these will show that an excellent performance has been achieved."

The half-year figures will form the main thrust of the company's defence against the unwanted takeover bid.

Mr Watson attacked a claim by BPCC that "it has proved impossible to reach agreement with Waddington on any terms." He called the statement "extraordinary" saying that there had been no attempt by BPCC to have any form of discussion.

BET sells computer offshoot

By Our City Staff

British Electric Traction's loss-making computer subsidiary, Rediffusion Computers, is being given a second lease of life.

A management and City consortium is buying the company from BET for a nominal sum guaranteeing for the foreseeable future the jobs of the 500 people employed by the company, which is based in Crawley, Sussex. There had been fears that the company would be closed.

Rediffusion Computers specialises in telex and electronic information systems. It was responsible for designing and installing the videotex system on the Siberian gas pipeline.

It has supplied systems to the police for fingerprint checking and to banks for cheque verification.

Members of the new consortium - which has called itself ROCC Corporation - are Charterhouse Development Capital and the four executive directors of Rediffusion Computers, including its chief executive, Mr Michael Aldrich.

The sale will involve BET in a £14 million write-off of its investment. Mr Hugh Dandies, the chairman, said: "As part of our intensive review of our activities and markets, Rediffusion and BET have concluded that the computer industry is only attractive to large companies."

"The investment required to create a new international manufacturer would be inconsistent with our strategy of concentrating our resources into a limited number of high-growth, service industry sectors", he said.

Sedgwick sells stake in underwriters for £4m

By Alison Eadie

Divestment at Lloyd's insurance market gathered pace yesterday as Sedgwick Group, Britain's biggest independent insurance broker announced the sale of its 88 per cent holding in Edwards & Payne (Underwriting Agencies) to one of the largest independent underwriting groups at Lloyd's, Sturge Holdings.

Holders of the remaining 12 per cent are also selling to Sturge. The total consideration is £4.5 million. £3.96 million in cash payable to Sedgwick and the remainder by allotment of Sturge shares to the minority shareholders.

Sturge's acquisition follows a £7 million share placing last May, which raised £3.5 million

new money specifically for the purpose of taking advantage of divestment opportunities. The Lloyd's Act of 1982 lays down that brokers should divest themselves of their underwriting managing agencies by July 1987.

Sturge is buying both the managing and the members agencies with three syndicates, 300 direct Lloyd's names and an underwriting capacity of £53 million.

The move follows the announcement earlier this week that Crechurch Syndicate Managers, a subsidiary of Merrett Holdings, the other major underwriting group at Lloyd's, had bought the Pulbrook managing agency

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Hongkong Bank

announces that on and after 23rd November, 1984 the following annual rates will apply

Base Rate 9 1/2% (Previously 10%)

Deposit Rate (basic) 6 1/4% (Previously 7%)

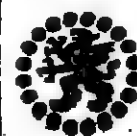
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
The British Bank of the Middle East
Wardley London Limited

Midland Bank Interest Rates

Base Rate Reduces by 1/2% to 9 1/2% per annum with effect from 23rd November 1984.

Deposit Accounts Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts reduces by 1/2% to 6% p.a. with effect from 23rd November 1984.

Save and Borrow Accounts Interest paid on credit balances reduces to the above Deposit Account rate and interest charged on overdrawn balances remains at 19 1/2% p.a. with effect from 21st December 1984. APR 20.9%.



Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

The Royal Bank of Scotland Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc announces that with effect from close of business on 23rd November 1984 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 10 per cent per annum to 9 1/2 per cent per annum.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parliament was expected last night to ratify big changes to the friendly societies, which hold over £3 billion of small investors' money, in the third reading of the Friendly Societies Bill. The Bill makes clear that about 300,000 tax-exempt friendly society policies taken out before June 1, 1984, are legally valid.

The Bill also removes the upper limit of £50,000 sum

assured on taxable friendly society policies, allowing societies to act as ordinary mutual life assurance companies if they wish.

POWELL DUFFRYN is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 5p for the six months trading to September 30, 1984, despite a fall in pretax profits from £6.8 million to £6.1 million.

Temps, page 19

Arms plants face massive task

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The management of Britain's Royal Ordnance Factories face a "gargantuan" task in turning the organisation into a commercially-minded public company ready for privatisation, according to one of its new Government-appointed directors.

Mr Nicholas Bell, the finance and production director, told a City defence seminar this week that transforming the centuries old ordnance factories from a production arm of the Ministry of Defence into a free-standing market-oriented company was a major challenge.

The ordnance factories are due to be vested as a public company in the next few weeks,

and Mr Michael Heseltine, Defence Secretary, has set the management a target of 18 to 24 months to prepare for eventual privatisation.

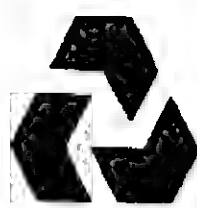
In one of the first public statements by the factories' management since privatisation was announced, Mr Bell, a former finance director of Plessey Telecommunications, said a number of vital steps had already been taken to prepare the organisation for its new life.

The factories now have their own sales and marketing team, their own research and development facilities, control over their property and have already started installing computer-

aided design equipment and flexible manufacturing systems. There will be a "substantial increase" in the factories' investment in information technology, he said.

One of the biggest challenges, said Mr Bell, was to turn 19,000 civil servants into businessmen. A product support and spares division has also been established.

The ordnance factories operate from 22 sites, with a turnover of £482 million last year, and a profit of £67 million. A number of foreign arms manufacturers have approached the factories looking to operate joint ventures with them.



**National
Westminster
Bank PLC**

NatWest announces that
with effect from
Friday, 23rd November, 1984,
its Base Rate
is decreased from
10% to 9½% per annum.

The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are decreased from 6¾% to 6¼% per annum.

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP



Coutts & Co

Coutts & Co. announce
that their Base Rate
is reduced from
10% to 9½% per annum
with effect from the
23rd November 1984
until further notice.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is reduced from 6¾% to 6¼% per annum.

Why BL's future should be decided now

By Keron Bhattacharya

The Austin Rover strike has ended but BL still faces serious problems needing government attention soon

Doubts cast over the future of BL by the strikes at Austin Rover have been dispelled by the management's typically firm and effective response. If anything the dispute will have strengthened the favourable public image of a company turned round from disaster by aggressive and dynamic new management. But that image belies the reality that BL still faces deep-seated long-term problems that will require the Government to take some difficult strategic decisions sooner rather than later.

In spite of huge injections of investment from the taxpayer - more than £2 billion in the past eight years - BL has simply not made the decisive breakthrough to long-term financial viability that had been hoped. Austin Rover, the volume car heart of the state-controlled business, made only a small operating profit in 1983, the record year for vehicle sales in the United Kingdom. Its market share was only 18 per cent.

The company now has three new-generation models in the Metro, Maestro and Montego, yet despite topping the sales league with a 23 per cent share of the market in October, BL's market share this year so far is slightly down on its performance in 1983.

The most worrying feature of this is that the best-selling Metro is now halfway through the four to five years now seen as a model's typical life cycle. In the boom year of 1983, when BL was struggling to break even, the leading US producers were making the record profits needed to pay for the design costs of new models for the late 1980s.

That means the Government will have to decide whether it is prepared to inject still more large-scale investment into BL to allow it to keep up in the race. The time for such strategic thinking is surely now, when the waters are relatively calm, rather than in the crisis

atmosphere that might well return later on.

In making its decision, the Government will have to take account of two factors over which BL itself has no control.

The long-term outlook for the motor industry is poor, except in the developing nations. A recent report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development suggests that the annual rate of growth of the car market in Western Europe will be between 1.3 and 1.4 per cent for the rest of the century and only 0.7 per cent in the United States. That means competition is likely to intensify; the home base is unlikely to be dynamic and weak competitors are going to emerge from greater pressure. Removal of the premium on car prices in Britain can only expose BL's position more starkly.

At the same time, the market and technical innovation will demand an ever greater investment in new models, frightening for any company which is not making much profit.

Constant product innovation is boosting the need for investment whether to improve fuel efficiency, incorporate more plastic or light alloy parts or to use better engines.

in the car body or introduce sophisticated electronic components. Mr Sam Toy of Ford UK has estimated that developing a

new mass market model to compete on a world scale can cost \$1 billion.

The United States, Japan and Germany have made massive investments in their motor car industries right through the 1970s and are continuing to do so. If we are to maintain a truly British presence in the automobile industry, it will not come cheap.

There is little doubt that Austin Rover will require another £2 billion of funds from 1986 onwards for new design costs. Who will pay for it this time: the Government?

The overriding reason for supporting BL through its crisis years was the potential threat to jobs if it failed. While that still remains a motive, the scope for employment in the motor car industry is becoming progressively thinner with the advent of robots. Studies by General Motors and Volkswagen have shown that 95 per cent of the assembly work can be done by robots. Improvements in microprocessor technology have made robots cheaper (often half the cost of an employee) and a robot can work longer

We shall in any case see a substantial cut in direct employment in the automobile industry. And BL has already warned that it may have to rely on more foreign components to remain competitive.

Unless the Government is prepared to fund the operation *ad infinitum*, there appear to be

Cars:

	1982		1983	
	Turnover £m	Operating profit (Loss) £m	Turnover £m	Operating profit (Loss) £m
Cars:				
Austin Rover	1,582	(101)	1,799	5
Jaguar	314	15	476	5
Unipert	342	14	346	1
Intra-group	Less 187	(5)	Less 189	(1)
	2,051	(78)	2,432	7
Commercial:				
Land Rover	411	(2)	370	(14)
Leyland Vehicles	426	(60)	435	70
International	385	21	339	1
Intra-group	Less 49	(1)	Less 42	1
	1,153	(42)	1,102	(6)
	70	(3)	71	(4)
Other activities	Less 202	(3)	Less 184	
	3,072	(126)	3,421	7
Total		97		(6)
Interest		(223)		
Pretax profit				
*Since sold				

five long-term
future of BI.

● **Privatization:** As with Jaguar, privatization is a simple matter for profitable parts of BL. Unipart, now confirmed as the next on the list, will face no

Anstin Rover, however, is a different proposition. When the crunch comes, there may not be a taker for Austin Rover. If the Government wants to come out of BL, it should do so soon. If it is left much longer, the costs for new models will loom large in any would-be purchaser's mind.

● **Selling to the Japanese:** This is perhaps the best option if

only there is a taker. The Japanese have so far resisted taking over an existing British operation in spite of the prospect of opening up the European car market completely.

● Nissan as a replacement for BL: With the overcapacity in the car market, it is unlikely that both Nissan and Austin Rover will survive side by side if Nissan decides to produce cars on a volume basis. In that case, BL looks vulnerable. If one accepts that our basic objective is not to maintain BL but to ensure that 18 per cent of the United Kingdom car market

does not go to foreign manufacturers, this alternative looks financially attractive.

● Making foreign cars under licence: - This appears to be a soft option involving the least design costs. It is likely, if privatization takes place, that the new owners would follow this path to survive. As GM, Ford and the European manufacturers are competing in the United Kingdom on equal terms, the likely arrangement for licensing would be with the Japanese. Honda already designs for BL. The problem with this option is that Japanese cars sell well because of their reliability rather than their design. One may find in such circumstances that both design and reliability are sacrificed (this is no reflection on the quality of our products but the Japanese are very good in this respect).

- Closure (if politically acceptable): It would be wrong not to consider this option even if only for academic interest. At least it shows (in investment terms) the limit of the government's downside risk.

If one assumes that the closure would follow the discontinuance of the current European car price cartel and the price level for cars would come down to the Continental level, the picture appears less gloomy than we are led to believe. If the entire market share for BL cars were taken over by imported cars (an unlikely event), we would face a balance of payments deficit of about £1.8 billion. This amount would be compensated (more or less) if the price of imported cars were to come down to the Continental level.

It is possible that the job losses (in BL and in its component industries) and the reduction in people's buying power would be compensated more or less by the spin-off from the extra injection of consumers' funds released through reduced car prices. Lower car prices would also help bring down the rate of inflation.

Nobody is suggesting the closure of Austin Rover but it is necessary to consider it, if only to evaluate the other alternatives the Government will face as BL's dominant shareholder and paymaster.

The author is a writer and broadcaster and heads Jay Consultancy Services.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984		Gross				1984		Int. Gross				1984		Int. Gross					
Low	High	Price	Ch'ge	%	P/E	Low	High	Price	Ch'ge	%	P/E	Low	High	Price	Ch'ge	%	P/E		
163	118	Albermarle	152	..	7.3	48	225	185	Fluor Corp	217	..	11.1	61	38	34	Personal Services	30	..	8.9
98	58	Alcoa	85	..	1.9	22	224	120	Plumbing Enterprises	215	..	18.4	48	257	50	Plumbers & Pipe Fitters	114	..	8.4
115	80	Alcoa	85	..	1.9	22	224	120	Plumbing Enterprises	215	..	18.4	48	257	50	Plumbers & Pipe Fitters	114	..	8.4
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Car Buyer's Guide

BMW

Park Lane

01-629 9277

Member of the Cooper Group

Europe's premier BMW showroom for new and used BMW cars

Cooper
Bishopsgate

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Vincents

209 - 211 Shindfield Road, Reading, RG2 8HB

(0734) 866161

Jaguar/Daimler

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10,000 members worldwide can't be wrong! Join them in this only club for Jaguar owners and enthusiasts and ensure you don't miss out on a great deal. There's a monthly magazine, meetings, new 'Find a Part' service, discount scheme, special insurance rates and a comprehensive range of spares for pre-war Jaguars.

An ideal Christmas present - membership is just £15 a year (£20 overseas) plus a £5 joining fee so contact the JDC without delay at

JAGUAR HOUSE
18 Stuart Street, Luton, Beds.
Tel: 0582 419332

Access/Visa

Access/Visa

1983 DAIMLER XJ6 4.2

Metallic green, black vinyl roof, 12,000 miles, spare unused. Interior damaged by fire, exterior totally unscathed. Requires new seats and some glass. Car drives perfectly. Offers can be seen Birmingham.

(0384) 67172 home
891219 business or (0247) 878583

JAGUAR XJS HE 1983

10,500 miles, 1 owner, automatic, air conditioning, alloy wheels, black leather interior, in absolutely brilliant condition. Save thousands on a new car price! £17,900.

Tel: 021-445 1004

1978 T REG XJS

Auto, superb looking car, silver, black leather interior, low mileage and excellent condition.

Tel: 021-445 1004

DAIMLER DOUBLE 6

X Reg. 32,000 miles, 1st Reg. No. 1000.

Tel: 487 5797 (office)
876 7840 (home)

1970 E TYPE COUPE 4.2

4 speed manual, 7,000 miles, alloy wheels, black leather interior, in excellent condition. Save thousands on a new car price! £17,900.

01-947 5786

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Porsche

Porsche 928 S Coupe

Manual transmission, black leather interior, alloy wheels, 1984, 11,500 miles, 11,500

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Porsche 911 Targa

1984, 11,500 miles, 11,500

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Porsche 911 Carrera

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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Cliff Webb

Nissan follows Ford to keep market share

The voluntary agreement restricting Japanese cars to 11 per cent of the British market was introduced about eight years ago to save UK-based carmakers suffering the same fate as the once all-conquering British motor cycle industry. It has been successful in its original aim, but is now beginning to have a new and disturbing influence on an already chaotic car market.

When the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) sat down with the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) to thrash out the original agreement, the most controversial issue after they had agreed the overall ceiling for Japanese imports was the proportion to be allocated to each manufacturer.

Wise, the SMMT left the allocation to the association, and it chose the easy way out by fixing market shares at the proportion each company then held. That was greeted with delight by the privately owned Datsun UK (now, Nissan UK), run so effectively by Mr Octave Bonnar. It accounted for more than half of Japanese sales here. But it has been a sore point with later arrivals.

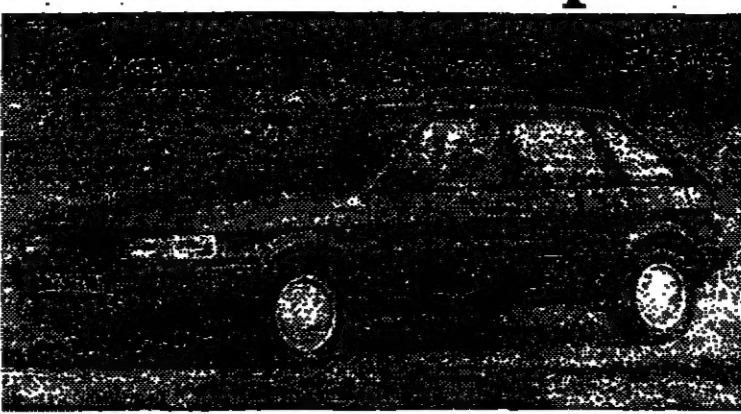
Until recently, Nissan UK could sell every car it could lay its hands on. Its dealerships were widely regarded as licences to make money. All that has changed and in today's bitter cut-price war dealers are hard pressed to sell Nissan's 6 per cent share. Yet if it falls short of its target over the year as a whole, Nissan knows full well that its Japanese rivals will be happy to make good the shortfall.

So, for the past four months, Nissan has taken a leaf from Ford's book, and given its dealers substantial financial incentives to register unsold cars, so inflating a market share which is calculated on the basis of registrations rather than actual sales.

Some 42 per cent of Nissan's registered since the end of June were registered in the last 10 days of each month. Such a massive distortion of the normal selling pattern is the clearest possible indication that dealers register unsold cars in very large numbers. Some industry sources suggest as many as 10,000. Now that is market humping gone mad, and it is time the SMMT and JAMA got together and came up with something better.

Alfa crisis

Alfa Romeo (Great Britain) seems to have spent the last four years rumbling from one crisis to another. It has had several management shakeouts. The latest brought the installation as managing director of Mr Rinaldo Ossola. He came highly recommended because his last job was running Alfa's Belgian company and car markets do not



MG Maestro 2.0 EFI: Fastest acceleration yet

come much tougher than price-controlled Belgium. More importantly, he brought with him £15.5m. from the state owned Italian parent to cover losses of recent years, enabling Alfa Romeo (Great Britain) to start with a clean slate.

He has also cut his British staff by half, and is planning to move from plush offices in north London to something cheaper and more in line with his reduced sales targets of 4,000 cars this year and 4,500 next year. That compares with 13,000 only five years ago.

One of Alfa's biggest setbacks was the withdrawal of the much-loved Alfa Romeo 164. It accounted for 60 per cent of the company's sales here, compared with 40 per cent in the rest of Europe. The Alfa 33 which replaced it was a little too up-market, and left a big gap in Alfa's armoury.

Now it is trying to fill that with the Alfa Romeo, the Alfa-bodied, Alfa-engineered model, which is assembled with Nissan and Alfa badges in Italy. The Alfa's UK price of £4,350 is already whetting appetites. It is no less than £1,645 cheaper than the Nissan equivalent, the Cherry Europe, which has been on sale here for several months with a notable lack of success.

One of the problems is that Nissan UK has come to expect its cars to arrive in pristine condition. In contrast, the Cherry Europe needed extensive pre-delivery work. Quality has improved recently, and Alfa insists it will not sell a single Alfa until it is right. I hope for its sales they keep that promise. The one thing this still highly regarded make does not need is another car of suspect quality and reliability. It has suffered too much from that in the past.

Fastest MG

Most readers will be by now be familiar with the Austin Maestro. In the 18 months since it was launched, it has become the popular choice of

Whatever was said to Lucas had the desired effect. The Maestro EFI 1.6 has just been tested in the sweetest running, safest handling family-car-cum-performance hatchback I have driven to date. The addition of a rear anti-roll bar and a thicker roll-over bar at the front were all that was needed to match handling to the increased power.

There are contenders such as Fiat's very hot Abarth 1300TC and the even faster, Lancia Delta HF turbo, which shade the MG's 0 to 60mph in 8.5 seconds and 115 mph top speed, but none comes close to matching its interior space and accommodation. It is also one of the few four-door models in the sports hatchback sector.

BL has been guilty of putting its much sought after MG badge on very ordinary cars. The EFI is not one of them; it is the fastest accelerating production MG yet made.

I particularly like the combination of a big engine with plenty of bottom end torque, and a small-medium body. It enables the EFI to be driven lazily with minimal use of the gear lever. It will potter along in fifth gear at 30mph without any trace of strain in the transmission, and still accelerate like other cars, in third.

Vital statistics

Model: Maestro EFI
Price: £7,279
Engine: 1994cc four cylinder, fuel injection
Performance: Max speed 115mph, 0 to 60mph 8.5 sec.
Official consumption: Urban, 28.3mpg, 56mpg, 47.4mpg, and 75mpg, 34.8mpg.
Length: 133.8
Insurance: Group 5.

If the mood takes you, and you want to play tunes on the gear lever, the Honda box is as slick as they come, and certainly smoother than the Volkswagen boxes in other Maestro and Montego models.

I am not yet a convert to the increasing number of electronic digital displays which are in danger of turning instrument binnacles into distracting Space Wars rather than simple information communicators. I must confess, however, that the EFI approach is one of the better attempts and one I could learn to live with.

The same applies to the lovely lady who hides behind the dashboard and tells me I have left my lights on, etc. She caught me napping on a number of occasions, which quite pleased my wife, who insists I am the worst possible second driver. Talking of women, I would advise spending the extra £296 for the optional power steering. Without it, the EFI is a bit of a handful when manoeuvring.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley

Authorised Dealers

JACK BARCLAY

24

Used Rolls-Royce and Bentley motor cars, including:

1. Rolls-Royce Camargue

2. Rolls-Royce Silver Spurs

3. Rolls-Royce Silver Spirits

4. Rolls-Royce Silver Shadows

5. Rolls-Royce Corniche Saloons

6. Rolls-Royce Phantom

7. Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud

8. Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn

9. Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost

10. Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith

11. Rolls-Royce Silver Series

12. Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow

13. Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit

14. Rolls-Royce Silver Star

15. Rolls-Royce Silver Sunbeam

16. Rolls-Royce Silver Vanden Plas

17. Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

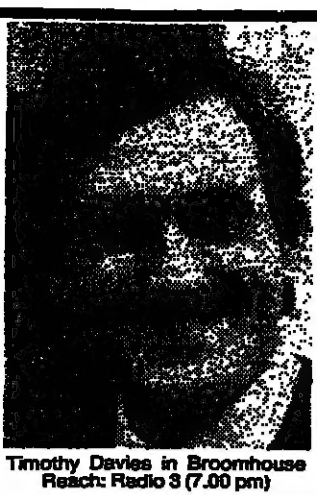
- 6.00 *Corbis AM*.
- 6.30 *Breakfast Time* with *Sally Scott* and *Nick Ross*. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.55; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15; a review of the morning papers at 7.15 and 8.15. Plus a link-up with Terry Wogan's radio programme to learn more about this evening's Children in Need appeal.
- 9.00 *Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga*. Part eight, the rather alarmingly entitled *Alternate Nostril Breathing and Scalp Tugs* (r).
- 9.10 *Mastermind*, presented by Magnus Magnusson. Neville Cohen's specialist subject is *The Lake District*; David Hinton's is *The Life of Nelson*; Colin Graham - Roman History 133 BC to AD 14; and Ella Thompson - the life and literary voyages of St Paul (r). 9.40 *Corbis* 10.30 *Play School*, presented by Liz Watts (r) 10.50 *Corbis*.
- 12.30 *News After Noon* with Richard Whitmore and *Maria Stuart*. The weather details come from Jim Bacon 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
- 1.00 *Picture Mill at One*. The Children in Need appeal is celebrated by a host of children and music from English Air and the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble 1.45 *Little Misses and the Mister Men* (r). 2.00 *Purely for Pleasure*. The history of a tour of the Wallace Collection (r).
- 2.45 *Film: Meid's Night Out* (1938). Romantic comedy about the son of a millionaire who becomes a milkman for a month - and who falls for one of the customers. Directed by Ben Holmes. 3.48 Regional news (London).
- 3.50 *Play School*, presented by Sheshaun Gibeau. 4.10 *The Family Business*. 4.15 *Jackpot*. Brian Grant reads the final part of *Handles*. 4.30 *Benji*, Zee and the Allen Parry. 4.40 *Harbort*. Tony Hart and Gabrielle Bradshaw with a new approach to the art of making jokes.
- 5.15 *Crackjack*, presented by Stu Francis. The guests include Keith Harris, Touch and Limb. 5.58 *Weather*.
- 6.00 *News with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell*.
- 6.30 *London Plus*.
- 6.55 *Children in Need*. An evening of programmes studied with entertainers soliciting donations to the worthy cause, led by Terry Wogan with Sue Cook and Joanna Lumley, beginning with (all times approximate except the main news at 9.00).
- 7.25 *Blankety Blank*. Les Dawson's panel this week consists of Cheryl Baker, Keith Harris, Fionn Hughes, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Mike Reid and Mollie Sugden.
- 8.10 *Jim'll Fix It*. Jimmy Savile introduces his favourite highlights from his last series.
- 9.00 *News with Julia Somerville*.
- 9.25 *Children in Need*.
- 9.45 *Star of the Best*. Bernard Falk with exclusive film of the Walton ex-captains who celebrated their first birthday last week.
- 10.45 *That's Life*. Highlights of *Ether Rantzen's* 11-year-old programme including *Chris Serle* with the driving dog; Bill Buckley with the two-year old rugby star; and report on the progress of liver transplant patient, Ben Hardwick.
- 11.30 *News headlines* followed by *Children in Need* celebrities and reporters throughout the country with the latest figures for viewers' pledges.
- 1.10 *Weather*.

TV-am

- 6.25 *Good Morning Britain*, presented by *Nanette Newman* and *Nick Owen*. News with Gordon Newscombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.30 and 7.30; *Corbis*, *Chris James* and *David Puttnam* from 8.45; exercises at 8.45 and 9.00; *Jimmy Greaves's* television highlights at 8.54; *Jan Wain's* consumer spot examines children's football kits at 8.47; advice on maternity rights at 8.06.

TV/LONDON

- 9.25 *Thames news headlines*. 9.30 *For Schools*. Custom and ceremony in the City. 9.47 *The Suffragettes* cause. 10.08 *Mime artist Mick Wells*. 10.28 *Political skills*. 10.48 *History: The Life of Nelson*; *Carbon Dioxide*. 11.05 *A picnic in a bird garden*. 11.22 *Storytelling*. 11.38 *The 1967* Chinese demonstrations in Peking, Moscow and London. 12.00 *Teatime and Classics*. For the very young (r). 12.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with puppets. 12.30 *Never Too Early*. *Never Too Late*. Secondary education in the city in the past. 12.57 *Presented by Chris Kelly and Diana Watts* (Orchestra). 1.00 *News at One* with *Leonard Parfitt*. 1.20 *Thames news* read by *Robin Houston*. 1.30 *Film: Pit of Darkness* (1962) starring *William Franklyn*. *Richard Logan* is found lying on an East End London bomb site. When he returns home he discovers that he has been missing for three weeks. Where has he been? Directed by *Lance Comfort*. 3.00 *Take the High Road*. Another episode from the eventful life of the residents of the Scottish Highland estate of *Glendarrach*. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. 4.00 *Rainbow*. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 *Wit Cwec Cwec*. Cartoon adventures of a naughty duck. 4.25 *The Wind in the Willows*. Rat decides to leave forever. 4.50 *Illusions*. *Fergus Roy* examines the art of the old oriental magicians. 5.15 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge quiz for teenagers. 5.45 *News*. 6.00 *The 5 O'Clock Show*. The lighter side of London life explored by *Michael Aspel* and his team. 7.00 *Alwot*. *Stringfellow Hawke* is posted to Africa where his orders are to dispose of his former commander in Vietnam who is now a mercenary helicopter pilot in a Russian-Thai army (Orchestra). 8.00 *Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right*. Game show in which couples have to combine their knowledge of public opinion with their luck at the turn of a card. 8.30 *Hallelujah!* The ever-hopeful *Salvation Army* Captain *Emily Ridley* believes that, at last, she is in line for promotion (Orchestra). 9.00 *En Brin, it's a Whopper*. Comedy drama series about the members of a Midlands course fishing club (Orchestra). 10.00 *News followed by London news headlines*. 10.30 *The London Programme*, presented by *John Taylor*. Can the GLC escape the government's plans for its abolition? The programme includes and extended interview with *Kap Livingstone*. 11.00 *Struggle*. Comedy series set in a Labour controlled London Town Hall. 11.30 *Around Midnight*. Chat show hosted by *Janet Street-Porter* and *Auberon Waugh*. 12.15 *Live from London*. *Carlene Carter* in concert. 1.10 *Highway Patrol*. Vintage American crime series starring *Broderick Crawford* (r). 1.40 *Night Thoughts*.

Timothy Davies in *Broomhouse* (BBC 2, 9.30pm)

● WE DON'T LIKE YOUR HOUSE EITHER (BBC 2, 9.30pm) is *Arena's* portrait of *Bruce Goff*, an American architect it dubs an authentic subversive. He was a mid-century modernist who lived in his own homes for rich professionals when the film was made, but he has since been transported to another plane where, if there is any justice, he will be provided with the chaos of blue-green glass, wooden ramps instead of staircases, dime-store ashtrays for embedding into window shutters, and carpeted walls for the smooth, polished surfaces of his domesticity. *Broomhouse*, while still on earth, brought 50 of his customers together for a celebratory party. One wonders how many architects of today could

amass that number of clients who were wholly satisfied, not positively ecstatic, about the house that Jack, or Jill, built for them.

● This week's offering in the *ITALIANS* series (BBC 2, 8.30pm) is a moderately interesting film about Sicilian fishermen, harpooners all, who are fishing the pinch now that factory ships from foreign parts have moved into what used to be family waters in the Straits of Messina. Even when slightly off colour, as *Italy's* film is, *Italians* is character analysis at its best, and I was astonished to hear its aims being almost wittily misunderstood by the panel in a recent edition of *BBC 2's* *Did You See* . . .

● Radio 3, expert in musical archaeology and the rehabilitation

of forgotten composers, is the ideal channel for the broadcasting of *Colin McLaren's Broomhouse* (BBC 2, 9.30pm), in which a nonentity of a musicologist (a delicious asides) undertakes the task of supplying a memorial to the dead and unremembered composer (David De Keyser, splendidly accented) busily providing a ghostly commentary at his side. This is rich, musically well-informed comedy writing, packed with descriptive one-liners that Dickens, had he lived in considerably more permissive days, might have pondered: "all brow and chin and with more legs than he knew what to do with . . . 40 cancelled buttocks and approximately the same number of cashmere-covered breasts subsided like a caravan at rest."

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

- 9.00 *Corbis*.
- 9.30 *Daytime on Two*. Science: biotechnology. 9.52 *Partners of Badger*. 10.15 *Maths*: column graphs. 10.38 *Forecasting weather conditions*. 11.00 *The design of vehicles and the surfaces over which they run*. 11.22 *Japan's economic growth*. 11.44 *Cleanliness at work*. 12.05 *An introduction to computers*. 12.30 *Complex computer-controlled devices*. 12.55 *Corbis*. 1.20 *For moderately handicapped young adults*. 1.38 *A Scottish family at the time of the First World War*. 2.00 *Just Desserts*, a play by *Chris Ellis*. 2.30 *Arthur Miller and 'The Crucible'*. A dramatized documentary starring *T. P. McKenna*. 3.00 *Anatomy of a Volcano*. An *Horizon* production that follows the eruption of *Mount St Helens* in May 1980. The narrator is *Ray Moore* (r). 3.55 *Film: The Man in Half Moon Street* (1944) starring *Nicki Atterton* and *Helen Walker*. Fog shrouded, cobble-paved London is the scene of this thriller about a scientist who may have been responsible for a series of murders stretching over 100 years. Directed by *Ralph Murray*. 5.25 *News summary* with subtitles. 5.30 *Fred Dineen* and his family make their annual pilgrimage to the *Cheshire* countryside with their steam engine and trailer (r). 6.00 *The Invaders*. Science fiction series in which, this week, *David Vincent* is captured by aliens and transported to *Utopia*. 6.50 *Choir of the Year*. *Brian Kay* introduces the second quarter-final of the competition devised and run by *Sainsbury's*. From *Hopetoun House*, near *Edinburgh*, six choirs from Scotland and the north of England compete for a place in the semi-final. 7.30 *Three in the Wild*. Part one of the story of *Mordicus*, the youngest of three buzzard chicks nesting in an *Essex* beech wood. 8.00 *Call My Bluff*. *Arthur Marshall*, *Sheila Stead* and *Nigel Martin* attempt to bluff *Frank Muir*, *Lysey de Paul* and *Huw Wheldon*. 8.30 *Italians*. A profile of *Ciccio Longo*, an 80-year-old Sicilian fisherman. (see *Choice*). 9.00 *M*A*S*H*. A United Nations delegation's visit to the 407th leaves a lasting impression on all the staff. 9.25 *Arena: We Don't Like Your House*. *Ethel* the philosopher and work of *American architect Bruce Goff* (see *Choice*). 10.25 *Newsnight*. 11.10 *Film: The Killing* (1956) starring *Stanley Hayden*. Highly praised thriller, directed by *Stanley Kubrick*, about a gang, assembled by ex-convict *Johnny Clay* to steal two million dollars in cash from a heavily guarded race track. Ends at 12.35. 1.30 *Closedown*.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30 *Treasure Hunt*. *Amelia Rice* is flying over the *Welsh Marches* in search of *John Edmunds* who are in London unravelling clues given to them by *Kenneth Kendall* as to the whereabouts of hidden treasure (r). 3.30 *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. Episode five of the seven-part dramatization of *Muriel Spark's* novel, starring *Geraldine McEwan* as the middle-aged schoolmistress at an *Edinburgh* school. 4.30 *Countdown*. *Keith Clinks* challenges yesterday's winner of the anagrams and mental arithmetic game. 5.00 *The Addams Family*. Part one of *Morticia's* Romance in which, on the occasion of her 13th marriage anniversary to *Gomez*, she tells her children the story of how they first met. 5.30 *The Tube* introduced by *Joel Holland* and *Paula Yates*. The kids' quiz in which *Paul Young*, *Lords of the New Church* and *Feleababba*. Items on film include a *Donna Summer* interview. 7.00 *Channel 4 News* and weather. 7.30 *Right to Reply*, presented by *Gus Macdonald*. *Harry Thobalds*, Controller of Advertising for the *IBA*, defends children's advertising against accusations from *Janey Buchanan*, MEP, that it is pernicious and grossly inducing. 8.00 *What the Papers Say*. Margaret Thatcher in the *Financial Times* cast a critical eye over the Press's coverage of the week's news. 8.15 *A Week in Politics*, presented by *Peter Jay*, includes a report on the strains within the *NUM* and an interview with *Arthur Scargill*. 9.00 *Tell the Truth*. *Gracie Garden* is in the chair as his panel of *Beverly Anderson*, *Gyles Brandreth*, *Brian Hayes* and *Julia McKenzie* try to find out who of three guests is telling the truth. 9.30 *In Search of Paradise*. The series on the history of gardens continues with an examination of the gardens that were created by the *Sun King* - *Louis XIV of France* (r). 10.00 *Newhart*. *American* comedy series. 10.30 *Just Sex*. The third programme of the series deals with how marriage is viewed today. Two discussion groups of seven men and seven women talk about what they expect out of sex in marriage and how far they accept *odious*. 11.15 *Opinions*. *Jeffrey Bernard* philosophises on a life devoted to women, drink and horses. 11.45 *Film: Days of Heaven* (1978) starring *Richard Gere*, *Sam Shepard*, *Brooke Adams* and *Indie Mars*. Drama about a Chicago stockbroker who, in 1918, moves to the Texas Panhandle with his sister and his lover who are hired as itinerant workers for the wheat harvest. Directed by *Terrance Malick*. 1.30 *Closedown*.

Radio 4

- On long wave, 1 denotes stereo on VHF. 5.55 *Shipping*. 6.00 *News*. 6.25 *Prayer for the Day*. 6.30 *Today*. 6.45, 6.50, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 7.55, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 8.55, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 9.55, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 10.55, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 11.55, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 12.55, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 2.55, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 3.55, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 5.55, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 7.55, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 8.55, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 9.55, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 10.55, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 11.55, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 12.55, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 1.55, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 2.55, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 3.55, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 4.55, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 5.55, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 6.55, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 7.55, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 8.55, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 9.55, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 10.55, 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Baby's heart rebuilt by surgeons

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The heart of an eight-year-old baby girl has been reconstructed in a pioneering operation to build up parts missing when she was born.

The baby girl, Catherine Coates, was making good progress, it was said last night, after the nine hours of surgery earlier this month.

She has already returned to her home in Fife, North Yorkshire, where her mother said last night: "We are all completely overwhelmed at what has happened. The doctors were magnificent and Catherine is looking just fine."

The pioneering surgery was done at Killinbeck Hospital, Leeds, by a team working with Mr Duncan Walker, the paediatric surgeon.

Mr Walker said yesterday that he had originally told Catherine's parents that she was unlikely to survive the operation. He added: "We are very hopeful Catherine will continue to make good progress."

Research toward this form of operation has been in progress at Killinbeck for more than 10 years. Reconstruction of badly damaged hearts at birth is regarded by some specialists as a better option than a complete transplant, as it avoids risks of rejection.

Immunity call for JPs over legal decisions

Three Law Lords called yesterday for changes in the law to give magistrates the same immunity from legal action as judges.

Their comments came in a judgment on a Northern Ireland case in which a youth was wrongly sent to Borstal in 1978 after three Belfast magistrates who imposed the penalty, claiming damages for wrongful imprisonment.

The House of Lords rejected an appeal by the magistrates against a ruling that they were liable to be sued because they had acted in excess of their jurisdiction.

But the judges urged changes in the law which at present gives magistrates only limited legal protection from such actions.

Last night the judges' comments were welcomed by Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association.

Privatization blamed for child labour

Child labour, filthy hospital wards, classrooms, and streets, are listed among the effects of "privatizing" local authority and health services in a Trades Union Congress report published yesterday.

In a document detailing 70 cases of "privatization gone wrong", which is being sent to senior local authority administrators, the TUC cites two examples of children under 16 being employed to clean hospital wards and schools.

In Merton, London, last year several cases of 15-year-olds and one 13-year-old working for Academy Cleaning Services were reported.

Office Cleaning Services, contracted to clean Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, admitted last year to employing without permits three children under 16, who were then sacked.

Merton have cancelled the Academy contract.

Labour picks use rather than abuse of Parliament

Continued from page 1

showed how effective verbal assault can be. Keeping attention as far as possible on the Government's alleged offence, he accused the Prime Minister of a gratuitously vindictive act in reducing the purchasing power of benefit payments to strikers' families.

Mrs Thatcher said the charge was against the National Union of Mineworkers, which chose to spend its time on mob violence instead of strike pay. She said the increase from £15 to £16 in the deemed level of strike pay was part of the formula which since 1980 had been applied automatically at annual upratings.

Mr Hattersley said the statute gave ministers power to vary the figure. Because she had chosen not to, the Prime Minister must take the responsibility in terms of suffering, hardship and violence.

Mr Weatherill at the end of question time made a brief statement, reminding the House how over the centuries it had guarded its procedure of free debate, which he promised to uphold. He added quietly that he hoped he would always have the full backing of the whole House.

Parliament, page 4

Law Lords uphold GCHQ ban

Continued from page 1

Minister refused to consult the unions before issuing her instructions "because she feared that, if she did, union-organized disruption of the monitoring services of GCHQ could well result".

With the other law lords, Lord Diplock, Lord Roskill and Lord Brightman, they dismissed the appeal brought by the Council of Civil Service Unions against the ruling of the Court of Appeal in August, which also upheld the legality of the Prime Minister's action.

The Government went to the Court of Appeal after Mr Justice Gidewell, in the High Court, declared the ban unlawful on the ground that it breached the rules of natural justice.

The unions, as well as saying they were going to the European Court, warned the Cabinet last night that if any of the 400 staff at GCHQ is dismissed industrial action would follow in the Civil Service and elsewhere.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "If the Government thinks this is the end of the GCHQ affair they are badly mistaken."

"There must be an appeal to the international courts which defend human rights. Despite what their lordships say, it remains morally wrong for these workers to be denied the right to union representation."

Lawyers retained by the Council of Civil Service Unions are to draw up a case arguing that six government employees have been deprived of their human rights by being denied the opportunity to belong to a free and independent trade union.

Members of unions at GCHQ who refused to give up their union cards met last night to discuss their next step in the 10-month campaign.

About 400 GCHQ staff are believed to have held on to their union cards out of a total of up to 10,000 employees.

Leading article, page 13
Law Report, page 23

Russians agree to talk about arms

Continued from page 1

antagonism toward Reagan to agreement to hold talks on all arms questions, from land-based missiles to anti-satellite weapons", one diplomat said.

Yesterday Dr Georgy Arbatov, a senior Kremlin adviser, said that Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz would discuss a broad range of issues rather than one particular issue.

Observers said that the Kremlin was being driven back to the negotiating table by an awareness of the crippling cost of the arms race, and by the need to prove to the Russians, the West and Russia's allies that Moscow was in favour of dialogue and arms reduction.

The Russians were, in effect, adopting the "umbrella" concept they had previously rejected. Yesterday Dr Arbatov pointed out that Mr Chernenko had repeatedly suggested "broad" talks.

WASHINGTON: The United States hopes that the Shultz-Gromyko meeting will usher in a new phase of arms control negotiations, but is sticking to its insistence that the Soviet proposal for a mutual end to the development of space weapons is unacceptable (Christopher Thomas writes).

Administration officials say that since Russia already has the only anti-satellite weapon, a freeze on Soviet weapons would not be in the interest of the United States. Washington would seek the verifiable withdrawal of the Soviet anti-satellite weapons before considering a ban on either further development.

Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's National Security Adviser, said yesterday that it was hoped to reach agreement on nuclear weapons and weapons in outer space. He quoted Mr Reagan as saying: "This is good news. It is the first step on what will be long and difficult road, but the world is depending on us."

Mr McFarlane said the United States would enter the meeting in a spirit of honest compromise. It would be premature to speculate on whether the encounter would lead to a summit between Mr Reagan and President Chernenko, the Soviet leader.

KINNOCK TALKS: Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, said yesterday after talks with Dr Arbatov in Moscow that he had told the Russians that Labour was absolutely committed to an "effective and modern" defence within the Western alliance.

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Princess of Wales visits the Victoria Centre, Park Rd, Wellington, Northants, 11.
Prince Andrew visits the British Aerospace Manufacturing Facility, Watlington, Lancashire, 10.30.
The Duchess of Kent attends the annual presentation of medals and certificates to nursing staff of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, at the Guildhall, 3.
The Duke and Duchess of Kent attend the British Red Cross Film

Food prices

The weather on the South Coast has been kind to fishermen this week and landings of small plaice, cod and dabs have been good. The news from other coastal areas, however, is disappointing. Cales have prevented many boats going to sea, especially in Scotland, where this week's small cod £1.30-£1.70 a lb, dabs from 40p and plaice £1.20.

All cuts of home produce lamb are up by 1p. 3p a lb again this week. Whole leg ranges from £1.44 to £1.82, whole shoulder 85p to £1.16 and loin chops £1.59-£2.14. New Zealand lamb shows a slight increase also, but some bargains are to be found. Sainbury's have whole leg at 99p a lb and fillet half at £1.02. Beef prices are fairly steady, with boneless sirloin, fore rib and rump steak down a penny a lb. Leg of pork ranges from 96p to £1.29, loin chops £1.32-£1.54 and boneless shoulder £1.00-£1.42. Some good meat buys this week are Tesco's fresh chicken ready baked at 68p a lb, boneless middle cuts of beef £1.50 and rump steak £2.48.

As supplies of citrus fruit from Spain increases, satsumas are probably the best buy at 25-35p a lb, seedless, juicy and easy to peel. Conference and Comice pears 25-40p are plentiful and very good. Avocado pears are good value from 25p each, as are small and medium pineapples 60-95p and kiwi fruit 16-35p each.

Brussels sprouts at 14-20p, asparagus 10-25p, a lb, carrots 8-18p, parsnips 15-25p and potatoes 8-14p are all plentiful and excellent. Celery 30-45p a head, Chinese leaves 20-30p a lb and cucumber 25-40p each are best buys.

Top films

The top box office films in London:

- 1 (2) 1984
- 2 (1) The Woman in Red
- 3 (4) Company of Wolves
- 4 (5) The Natural
- 5 (3) Tropicana
- 6 (7) Fat Man in Paris
- 7 (6) One Hundred and One Dalmatians
- 8 (8) The Hotel New Hampshire
- 9 (9) Steadfast Party
- 10 (10) Conan the Destroyer

Top films in the provinces:

- 1 The Woman in Red
- 2 Steadfast Party
- 3 The Natural
- 4 Broadway Danny Rose
- 5 1984

Compiled by Screen International

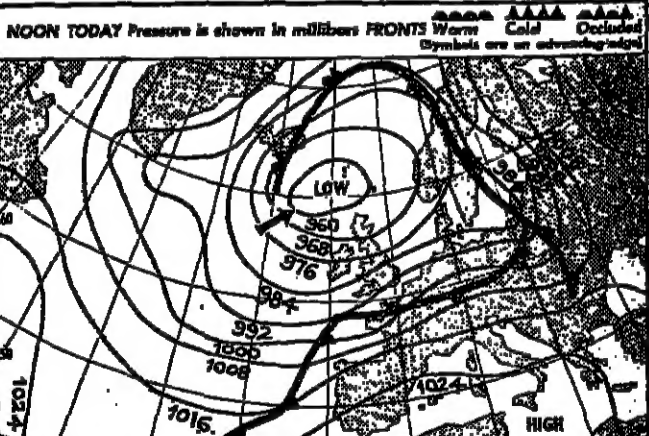
Weather forecast

A very deep depression which is expected to be near Western Scotland tomorrow morning will move slowly NE.

Gam to midnight
London, East Angles, E, W, Midlands, E, Central N England: Rather cloudy, rain at times; wind SW strong; max temp 11C (52F).
SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Rather cloudy, showers or longer periods of rain; wind SW strong locally gale force; max temp 10C (50F).
N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy in places with isolated hail or thunder; wind SW strong locally gale force; max temp 9C (48F).
Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy and prolonged in places with isolated hail or thunder; wind SW strong; max temp 9C (48F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy in places with isolated hail or thunder, turning falling a little below normal by Sunday with night frost; windy at first.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW strong or gale occasionally poor; sea very rough. S Georgia's Channel, West Sea: Wind SW strong to severe gale, locally storm at first; showers; visibility moderate or good; sea very rough.

Sun rises: 7.52 am Sun sets: 4.02 pm
Moon rises: 8.13 am Moon sets: 4.14 pm
Full Moon: First quarter: November 30.



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,593

1 Across
2 Down
3 Across
4 Down
5 Across
6 Down
7 Across
8 Down
9 Across
10 Down
11 Across
12 Down
13 Across
14 Down
15 Across
16 Down
17 Across
18 Down
19 Across
20 Down
21 Across
22 Down
23 Across
24 Down
25 Across
26 Down
27 Across
28 Down

Christmas mail

Today is the latest recommended posting date for Christmas cards, letters and parcels by surface routes to most of Europe and the Falkland Islands. Airmail Christmas cards and letters should be sent to HM Forces in the South Atlantic by December 14. The last date for surface mail to France is November 26.

Top video rentals

- 1 The Empire Strikes Back
- 2 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial
- 3 The Untouchables
- 4 The Godfather Part II
- 5 The Untouchables
- 6 The Untouchables
- 7 The Untouchables
- 8 The Untouchables
- 9 The Untouchables
- 10 The Untouchables

Lighting-up time

London 4.22 pm to 7.04 am
Birmingham 4.22 pm to 7.27 am
Sheffield 4.31 pm to 7.21 am
Preston 4.50 pm to 7.20 am

High tides

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	12.48	4.17
Aldershot	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17
Amble	12.48	4.17

Canal souvenirs

A range of seasonal gifts such as Christmas cards, a 12 page canal calendar and other canal souvenirs are available from British Waterways Board's Information Centre, Canal Shop, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, NW1; open Mon to Fri 9.15 to 4.30. For further details tel: 01 262 6711 ext. 6361 or 6364.

Anniversaries

Births: Franklin Pierce, 14th president of the USA 1853-57, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, 1804; James Thomas, poet, author of *The City of Dreadful Night*, Port Glasgow, 1834.
Deaths: Thomas Tallis, composer, Greenwich, 1585; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, playwright, London, 1934; André Malraux, novelist and art historian, Paris, 1976.

The pound

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank of Australia	1.49
Belgium	Bank of Belgium	27.50
Canada	Bank of Montreal	71.50
Denmark	Bank of Denmark	13.18
France	Bank of France	11.71
Germany	Bank of Germany	3.52
Greece	Bank of Greece	168.00
Hong Kong	Bank of Hong Kong	10.00
India	Bank of India	1.24
Italy	Bank of Italy	226.00
Japan	Bank of Japan	314.00
Netherlands	Bank of Netherlands	4.30
New Zealand	Bank of New Zealand	2.14
Portugal	Bank of Portugal	204.00
Spain	Bank of Spain	16.45
Sweden	Bank of Sweden	1.37
Switzerland	Bank of Switzerland	1.27
USA	Bank of USA	1.25
Yugoslavia	Bank of Yugoslavia	325.00

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 13C (55F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Humidity: 65-75%. Wind: S.W. 10-15 mph. Rain: 0.1 in. Sea level: 6.0 m. 1,000 mbar = 29.53 in.

Highest and lowest
Yesterday: Highest day temp: 18C (64F); lowest day temp: 10C (50F). Highest night temp: 12C (54F); lowest night temp: 8C (46F).

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Around Britain

City	Sun Rain	Mon Rain	Tue Rain
Cardiff	0.4	0.2	0.1
Belfast	0.1	0.1	0.1
Birmingham	0.1	0.1	0.1
Bristol	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cardiff	0.1	0.1	0.1

Abroad

City	Sun Rain	Mon Rain	Tue Rain
Amsterdam	0.1	0.1	0.1
Berlin	0.1	0.1	0.1
Bombay	0.1	0.1	0.1
Buenos Aires	0.1	0.1	0.1
Calcutta	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cairo	0.1	0.1	0.1
Colon	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hankow	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hong Kong	0.1	0.1	0.1
Kobe	0.1	0.1	0.1
London	0.1	0.1	0.1
Lyons	0.1	0.1	0.1
Manila	0.1	0.1	0.1
Medan	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paris	0.1	0.1	0.1
Peking	0.1	0.1	0.1
Rangoon	0.1	0.1	0.1
San Francisco	0.1	0.1	0.1
Shanghai	0.1	0.1	0.1
Singapore	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sourabaya	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tientsin	0.1	0.1	0.1
Yokohama	0.1	0.1	0.1